Friday November 3 1995

Abu Dhabi D 8.50 Algeria L 320 Andorra FF 9 Austria AS 28 Bahrain BD 0.80 Belgium BF 90 Bulgaria L 120 Croatia KN 12.50 Cyprus CE 0.90 Czech Republic KC45 Denmark DK 14 Dubai D 8.50 Egypt EX 5 Estonia K 30 Finland FM 11 France FF 10 Germany DM 3.50 Greece D 350 Hong Kong HK$ 23 Hungary F 185 Iceland IK 186 India Rs 55 Israel NIS 8.90 Italy L 2,800 Jordan JD 1.00 Kuwait KD 0.50 Latvia LS 2 Lebanon LBS 1,50 Lithuania LTS 2 Luxembourg LF 55 Madeira E 280 Malta ML 0.43 Morocco D 15 Netherlands G 3.75 Norway NK 15 Oman OR 1.00 Pakistan R 70 Poland Z 5.70 Portugal E 230 Qatar QR 8.50 Russia US$ 2.00 Saudi Arabia R 10 Slovakia SK 45 Slovenia SL T 260 Spain P 200 Sweden SK 15 Switzerland SF 3 Thailand B 80 Tunisia TD 1.750 Turkey TL 95,000 Ukraine US$ 2.00 USA US$ 2.75

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,389

Review

Melissa Etheridge

Twisting the American Dream

Plus James Fenton, Blake Morrison

The latest book reviews

Review

With European weather

Sport

The strange story of football's vanishing chairman

This section, page 16

'Moralist' MPs kill family bill

Labour claims climbdown shows right's grip on Tories

Rebecca Smithers and Clare Dyer

A SMALL group of Conservative MPs from the moralist right-wing of the party yesterday claimed their first major legislative scalp when they forced the Government to shelve a controversial new bill on domestic violence.

And there was speculation last night that the growing power of the fundamentalist rightwingers might claim a more significant victory with the shelving of a separate package of divorce reforms.

The Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill, which would have given greater protection to victims of domestic violence and child abuse, had been on the verge of becoming law with all-party approval. Opposition MPs, women's rights groups and legal groups reacted with fury to the Government's move.

Sandra Horley, director of the charity Refuge, said: "This is political sabotage. These proposals have been around for three years. Women are going to suffer unnecessary violence as a result of this."

Paul Boateng, Labour legal affairs spokesman, said the move exposed the "yellow streak" running through the Government and showed it to be in the grip of "a right-wing fundamentalist rump". He said: "A bill designed to help the victims of domestic violence has fallen victim to a bloody family feud in the Tory Party."

The product of five years of consultation by the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, the bill was sidelined by nine right-wing Tory backbenchers who claimed it would weaken the status of marriage. The bill would have eased the system of getting injunctions to prevent domestic violence, and extended remedies now limited to spouses and cohabitees to ex-spouses, former cohabitees and a range of relatives.

Poll gap up

A GALLUP poll for the Daily Telegraph today shows Labour's lead widening by 9.5 percentage points to a startling 39.5. Gallup gives Labour 61 per cent against 21.5 for the Tories, with the Liberal Democrats up 0.5 on 14.5.

The rebel MPs, alerted by a Daily Mail article claiming the bill would give new property rights to live-in lovers, put down last-minute amendments. Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, attempted to do a deal, but with too little time before the end of the parliamentary session the bill fell.

One of the backbenchers, Roger Gale, said he hoped it would be re-introduced next session, with amendments, as "a better bill".

The climbdown is a serious blow to John Major, reinforcing suggestions that he has allowed the party's policies to be hijacked by the dissenting rightwingers. It is also a setback for the Lord Chancellor. One senior Government source said last night: "It makes our grip on legislation look decidedly shaky."

Lord Mackay announced the decision in a written answer yesterday. He pledged to "continue to work on the bill with a view to bringing it back before parliament as soon as possible".

Rebel Tory MP Teresa Gorman added her voice to the wave of criticism which followed the move, saying her colleages were "misguided" over the issue. Diana Maddock, Liberal Democrat spokeswoman on Women's Issues and Family Policy, said: "The blocking of the bill will make those subject to domestic violence very angry ... there is a clear majority for it in the House."

Groups which supported the bill were outraged that a measure with such wide backing could be sabotaged at such a late stage by a few MPs who had apparently just woken up to its existence.

Jim Harding, director of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, said: "If the bill is not passed, we believe that the security of many children and their mothers will be at risk."

Louise Coubrough of the Society of Labour Lawyers said: "This bill was designed to protect the vulnerable. It is a disgrace that the Government has been hijacked by those who seem not to understand or care about the innocent victims of domestic violence."

The Law Society was "dismayed, shocked and deeply disappointed" at the decision, and urged the Government to bring back the bill in the next parliamentary session.

Last night the future of Lord Mackay's wide-ranging reforms to divorce law was unclear. Although Downing Street officials insisted that the Divorce Bill would be included in the Queen's Speech on November 15, senior Government sources admitted that the legislation was not guaranteed a place.

The bill would allow divorces to be granted after a year-long pause for mediation, but would end "quickie" divorces. MPs who attended a meeting with Lord Mackay supporting his proposals were optimistic last night.

Politics, page 4

Magazine finds out the hard way: it ain't over till the fat lady sues . . .

Jessye Norman in Ariadne Auf Naxos. She is described as prickly on the subject of her weight

PHOTOGRAPH: CATHERINE ASHMORE

Ian Katz in New York

THE journalists and publishers of Classic CD magazine, which is based in Bath, are discovering the truth of a little quoted operatic adage: "It ain't over 'til the fat lady sues."

In a lawsuit filed in New York federal court this week, the celebrated American diva Jessye Norman is seeking $3 million (£2 million) damages over an article in which she claims the magazine ridiculed her "and all persons of African-American backround and descent".

The Georgia-born soprano, who has used her glorious voice to champion civil rights as well as delight opera audiences from New York to Vienna, says that story in the magazine's November 1994 issue potrayed her in "a gross and exaggerated manner" and as "an uneducated and ill-spoken person."

Ms Norman is particularly angry over a vignette alluding to her generous proportions. The magazine claimed that she once "got trapped in swing doors on her way to a concert, and when advised to release herself by turning sideways, replied: 'Honey, I ain't got no sideways'."

The 50-year-old singer, who owns homes in upstate New

Turn to page 2, column 6

Dark cloud threatens S Africa, warns Malan

David Beresford in Durban

SPECIAL investigators in South Africa believe they have cracked the "Third Force" conspiracy with the arrest on murder charges yesterday of the former defence minister, General Magnus Malan, and 10 retired military officers.

The Guardian learned yesterday that behind the township massacre for which the 11 men are to face trial lies evidence of an alleged violent conspiracy aimed at rescuing the Zulu chief, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and his Inkatha party from obliteration.

There were extraordinary scenes in a Durban court yesterday when 27 retired army and police generals packed the public gallery in a show of support for the 11 accused men, who included some of the most powerful "securocrats" of the apartheid era.

General Jannie Geldenhuys, the former chief of South Africa's defence force, and Vice Admiral Dries Putter, a former naval chief, were among those who traipsed into the courtroom to suffer the indignity of a magistrate ordering them to surrender their passports and report weekly to police.

Lined up in front of the dock they stared impassively at the magistrate over the seated figure of the man who had put them there: Colonel Frank Dutton, head of the "untouchables", the hand-picked team of police and civil-rights lawyers set up to investigate what lay behind the low-intensity civil war bubbling in the region since the mid-1980s.

Earlier, the retired officers had been formally arrested in private on another floor of the courthouse and charged with the massacre of a priest, five women and seven children in the Natal township of KwaMakutha on January 21, 1987.

After their release on bail of between £700 and £1,700, they made defiant statements.

Describing himself as a moderate, a democrat and "above all, a Christian", Gen Malan said: "South African democracy is moving into a dark cloud — the darkest ever."

The case appears to go to the heart of the so-called "Third Force" saga — a conspiracy by elements of the security forces with powerful political backing.

The Guardian has learnt that Gen Malan and the 10 officers have been linked to the KwaMakutha massacre through the powerful State Security Council and a military training camp in the Caprivi Strip of Namibia.

In the mid 1980s Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha — faced with the rapid erosion of its support by the United Democratic Front, aligned to the African National Congress — is believed to have appealed to the government for help. Pretoria is said to have set up a State Security Council sub-committee to deal with the problem headed by General "Kat" Liebenberg, who was among those charged yesterday.

The sub-committee established a special training camp for about 200 Inkatha recruits in the Caprivi. Their existence was acknowledged by the then president, F.W. de Klerk, in 1991.

Since then, it has become apparent that the Caprivi 200 formed the core of an alleged network of Inkatha "hit squads" targeting ANC sympathisers. It is believed Col Dutton and his team have intelligence documents detailing the alleged conspiracy.

ANC poll lead, page 7; Leader comment, page 8

Hospital 'surgeon' was 17-year-old student

Martin Wainwright

A DOCTOR and staff nurse are facing disciplinary action after a schoolboy's work experience scheme ventured beyond the usual frontiers of basic medical science.

To the astonishment of hospital trust managers in Bradford, the 17-year-old A-level student stitched the wound of a woman accident patient at the city's Royal Infirmary — and then, when she returned a week later with another cut, repeated the mini-operation.

The Bradford trust — whose chairman, Rodney Walker, coincidentally announced his resignation yesterday to concentrate on his other quango chairmanship at the Sports Council — started an immediate inquiry. Malcolm Poad, group general manager for surgery at Bradford Hospitals, said yesterday that the student had flourished on a two month work experience course at the Royal Infirmary. His first bout of sewing, or suture, had been under the close supervision of a senior house officer, who decided to allow him hands-on experience.

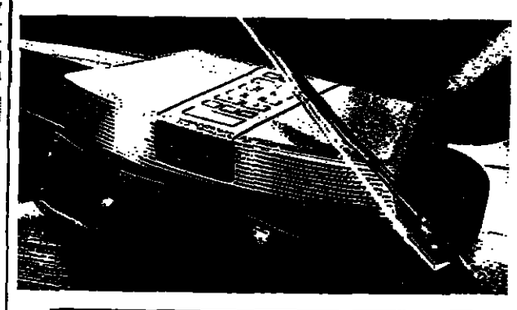
"The student has applied to university medical school, and the senior houseman showed him how to suture. The student put two stitches into the patient's leg under the doctor's supervision."

A week later, the same woman returned with a second cut, also in her leg, and found the student back on duty. Mr Poad said: "This time he was working under the supervision of a staff nurse, who thought that he was a trainee and supervised the insertion of three stitches by him. "The patient was happy that he was dealing with her again. He is a mature 17-year-old, who wants to be a doctor."

The trust emphasised that the incidents had not been the subject of a patient complaint but added that they "should not have happened."

The patient, whose name has not been disclosed, and her GP have been offered a full apology. Work experience at the hospital has been suspended, until a review reports on guidelines for students.

Earlier this year, a ward sister was disciplined for removing an appendix at Trelisk hospital, Truro, and in March, Newham general hospital held an inquiry into allegations that a hospital porter had helped an operation by holding instruments in an open wound.



Turn any room into a concert hall.

Introducing the new Bose® Wave® radio.

Want to enjoy orchestral strings in your kitchen? Or in the bedroom? The new Bose Wave radio fills any room with rich, clear, unexpectedly lifelike sound. But you won't find this small wonder in any store. The Wave radio is only available direct from Bose. For a free information pack, simply call the free number or send/fax the coupon below. Or to audition the Wave radio in your home for 14 days, satisfaction guaranteed, call:

0800 614 293.

When calling, please quote the reference number 2126.

Yes, Bose, it sounds good to me.

Please send me more information about the Bose Wave radio and the 14-day, satisfaction-guaranteed audition.

Name _____ Mr/Mrs/Ms.

Tel. _____ day _____ eve

Address _____

Postal code _____

2213

Please return in an envelope to: Bose, Freepost TK 1020, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 5UN. No stamp necessary. Or fax to: 0181 894 7664.

BOSE Better sound through research.

Inside

News 2
Letters 8
Comment 9
Obituaries 10
Financial news 11

G2

Arts 6/7
London Film Festival 7
Music 8/9
Books 10/13
David Sexton 12
Quick crossword 15
Cartoons 15
Radio 16
Television 16
Weather 16

44

9 770261 307354

Sketch

Say it right and keep on saying it

Simon Hoggart

WATCHING the New Model Labour Party falling into line is like seeing the little bowler-hatted men in the flour ad wheeling round to march on Austria.

Earlier this week Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press officer, spoke to shadow cabinet research assistants, the people who write most Labour speeches.

He stressed the importance of everybody saying the same thing all of the time.

There were certain phrases, he said, which should be repeated at every opportunity.

For example, the Tories must invariably be described as "lurching to the right" (as opposed to lunching to the right, which is what you see as they totter out of Westminster restaurants at 3.45 pm).

Shadow ministers must talk about "hope in place of fear" and should repeat the mantra "New Labour, New Britain," over and over again, like Hare Krishnas in Oxford Street.

Mr Campbell didn't hint that each use of these phrases would win a token, exchangeable for a free set of tumblers or a Rock Classics CD, but he did make it clear that they would be noted with great approval. The important thing was that the same points were made in the same way, all of the time.

And it is working. Yesterday, at Prime Minister's Questions, every single Labour MP who spoke raised the same issue. This is something I have never seen before. It was a horrible sight.

The topic was sleaze, and Mr Major's failure to agree that MPs should be obliged to say how much they earn for their outside work. It is an important subject and, more to the point, one which Labour thinks will embarrass the Conservatives.

Clearly, instructions had been given that every Labour MP who spoke should raise this topic and no other. They all obliged.

We know that in Old Labour everybody said different things and perpetually disagreed with each other. The party split more often than a sex-mad amoeba.

No wonder Messrs Blair, Campbell and the rest want to impose a little discipline on the rabble.

Yet if you lose the cantankerousness, the unpredictability, the genuine, spontaneous anger and the individual passion, you lose the Labour Party.

Oh, you might create a machine which will win an election, or even two, and that would be no bad thing. But you wouldn't have the Labour Party any more; you might have an institution people would vote for, but not one which anyone would support.

Oddly enough, it was on this occasion that Mr Major dropped his crosspatch manner of earlier this week. He was genial, almost expansive. When Angela Eagle (Lab, Wallasey) inquired about Tory MPs who had threatened to resign over the issue of declaring their perks, he began his reply "with all due respect" and without a trace of sarcasm.

"You shouldn't believe all the nonsense you read in some newspapers," he added with an avuncular chuckle.

Something had gone wrong with the Labour plan. Mr Blair was geared for battle with Mr Peevish, but Mr Peevish had declined to appear. It was the Opposition leader for once who sounded as if he had been inhaling too rich a mixture.

"It is to do with the squalid, monied interests of the Conservative Party!" he yelled at the Prime Minister. "If now, in weakness, you go back on your word to implement the report you commissioned, it will leave a stain on your prime ministership and your government that will not be removed until this rotten administration is swept from office!"

House of Correction, an expanded and updated paperback edition of Simon Hoggart's funniest sketches, is now available: Robson Books, £7.99

Cabinet hits deadlock over squaring the circle on tax cuts and spending

Michael White
Political Editor

JOHN Major's Cabinet has been forced to go into special session on Monday after failing to agree yesterday on the package of spending cuts needed to help finance a tax-cutting Budget on November 28.

The high stakes riding on what many Tories suspect will be the last Budget before the coming election were today underlined by a new Gallup Poll for the Daily Telegraph, which gave Labour a 40 point lead over the Tories. Tax cuts funded by unpopular spending cuts may backfire.

Though Education Secretary Gillian Shephard's skillful rearguard action now appears to have been largely successful in protecting her politically sensitive agenda from all the demands made by Treasury ministers, Stephen Dorrell's demands on behalf of the National Health Service remain among the outstanding issues to be resolved over the weekend.

Others include Peter Lilley's £80 billion social security budget; defence, according to some Tory MPs; and among the smaller departments, Virginia Bottomley's £1.1 billion heritage budget, where cuts have been sought of 6 per cent in cash terms — 8 per cent once inflation has been taken into account.

"The show is on the road, we have agreed the broad thrust of the settlement, but there's a bit more to do," one well-placed official said last night. Mr Major's need to leave for the Commonwealth summit in New Zealand on Tuesday morning presents a firm deadline of Monday.

But some departments are unhappy with Downing Street and Treasury talk of 5 per cent cuts across the board when they know that favoured departments, including health, education and Michael Howard's newly-hardline Home Office, will escape the full impact.

"All this talk of an equal distribution of misery is all very well. But not every department will suffer," one official complained last night. "A fat man can afford to lose a couple of stone. An anorexic can't."

Road building and grants to housing associations are certain to be among the victims of the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke's search for headroom, preferably below the agreed £263 billion new control total for 1996-97.

But speculation that Mr Clarke will obtain a figure £4 billion below that level led to strong denials last night. "It's a ceiling, not a target, and we'll get as far below it as we can, but an undershoot of £4 billion is not realistic," one Whitehall source warned rightwing Tory MPs, who believe that a mixture of cuts, under-spending on unemployment benefit, and judicious raiding of the contingency reserves will provide up to £6 billion for the tax cuts they are demanding.

Predictions of a ritual knocking together of ministerial heads by the Prime Minister when the Cabinet met yesterday did not materialise — either as drama or as a resolution of conflicting pressures which are forcing ministers to squeeze popular spending programmes so as to fund supposedly more popular tax cuts.

The designated means of squaring the circle this year, or pretending to do so, is likely to be the much-vaunted Private Finance Initiative, the use of private funds to help finance public projects, be they roads, the London Underground, or new hospitals.

Despite its patchy record so far, it is a policy which unites rightwingers and leftish ministers like Mr Dorrell.

There is also speculation that Mr Clarke will seek to sell off public debt, especially on asset-backed debts like the Housing Corporation's £1 billion, which private banks would happily take on.

Rightwing Tory MPs, egged on by ex-ministers like Norman Lamont and John Redwood, have deliberately raised expectations of a 2p cut in the standard 25p rate of income tax, at a cost of around £4 billion.

Well below the 1993-95 tax increases, which Mr Clarke admits were equivalent to a 7p rise on the standard rate by other means, they would supposedly restore the Tories' tax-cutting credentials.

In reality, the Opposition and many City analysts believe Mr Major's tax credibility will need more than that to restore voter confidence.

Mrs Shephard has particular problems because she has new commitments to nursery education to fund while Mr Major piles on pressure to extend grant-maintained status to all secondary schools.

Last night the shadow education secretary, David Blunkett, challenged Mrs Shephard, who has reportedly been battling for an extra £800 million for 1996-97, to commit herself to spending £1 billion extra on education next year.

Anything less would fall short of the cost of inflation, at present 3.9 per cent, and would represent a real-terms cut, he said.

'Wise men' back tax cuts but warn against reduction in spending on capital projects

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is given the nod today for Budget tax cuts from his panel of "wise men" who warn that current policy is too tight for Britain's slowing economy. Most of the Treasury's six-man team of independent forecasters back a package of tax reductions for the less well-off. But the panel says it would strongly oppose a giveaway package that had to be followed by increases in interest rates.

The wise men also come down strongly against the idea — seen as a certainty for Mr Clarke's third Budget package on November 28 — that government spending on capital projects should be slashed to provide the scope for tax cuts.

"Most of us would oppose further cuts in public investment in the infrastructure and skills to make room for tax cuts. If anything, there is a case for an increase in this kind of spending".

One of the panel, Wynne Godley, says that the Chancellor should scrap the idea of tax cuts altogether, since they were likely to increase the already excessive level of consumption.

At the other extreme, Patrick Minford, of Liverpool University, argues that taxes should be reduced by £6 billion in each of the next three years, with interest rates also cut by one percentage point.

Andrew Britton, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, says there is scope for tax cuts. But his preference would be for an increase in public spending on construction, health, education and social welfare.

The wise men have previously supported government economic policy since Britain left the Exchange Rate Mechanism, which has meant that the boost provided by lower interest rates and a cheaper pound has been balanced by the deflationary impact of higher taxes and lower public spending.

In today's overview, the panel said they would not like to see this direction reversed.

Budget forecast, page 11

MP and City join outcry against Wembley bid

The team behind London's premier stadium 'couldn't run a whelk stall', it is claimed

Lisa Buckingham and John Duncan

THE backlash against Wembley's bid for £108 million of lottery money to build a new national sports stadium gathered pace yesterday, with a London MP claiming the stadium management "couldn't run a whelk stall", City shareholders attacking "stupendous management weakness" and a football supporters' group expressing concern over the use of public money for a private company.

Wembley and Manchester are on the shortlist to be the site of the state-of-the-art stadium, with Wembley plc offering to donate the land and brand name "to the nation" in return for a 21-year contract to operate the facilities. However, critics have argued that this is simply a way for an ailing public company to be bailed out by lottery funds.

Tony Banks, the Labour MP for Newham NE, yesterday called for a parliamentary debate on the whole issue.

"Why should we hand over large amounts of lottery money to an organisation that couldn't run a whelk stall efficiently and then put them in charge of it? Surely the idea is to go for an imaginative solution somewhere else in London, not a revamp of clapped out old Wembley?" he said.

Several City institutions are also sceptical about Wembley's credentials. "Given the track record of the place, I can understand the Sports' Council's uncertainty that giving this money will effectively be benefiting a private company," said one big City shareholder yesterday.

The influential Football Supporters' Association also has serious reservations. "If you want to look at whose bid is in the interests of football supporters, it's Manchester," said the chairman, Tim Crabbe.

Many Wembley investors saw their holdings effectively wiped out last year by a huge share issue. At one stage there were 5.5 billion shares — about 70,000 or a pile of certificates 60 ft deep — for every seat in the old stadium.

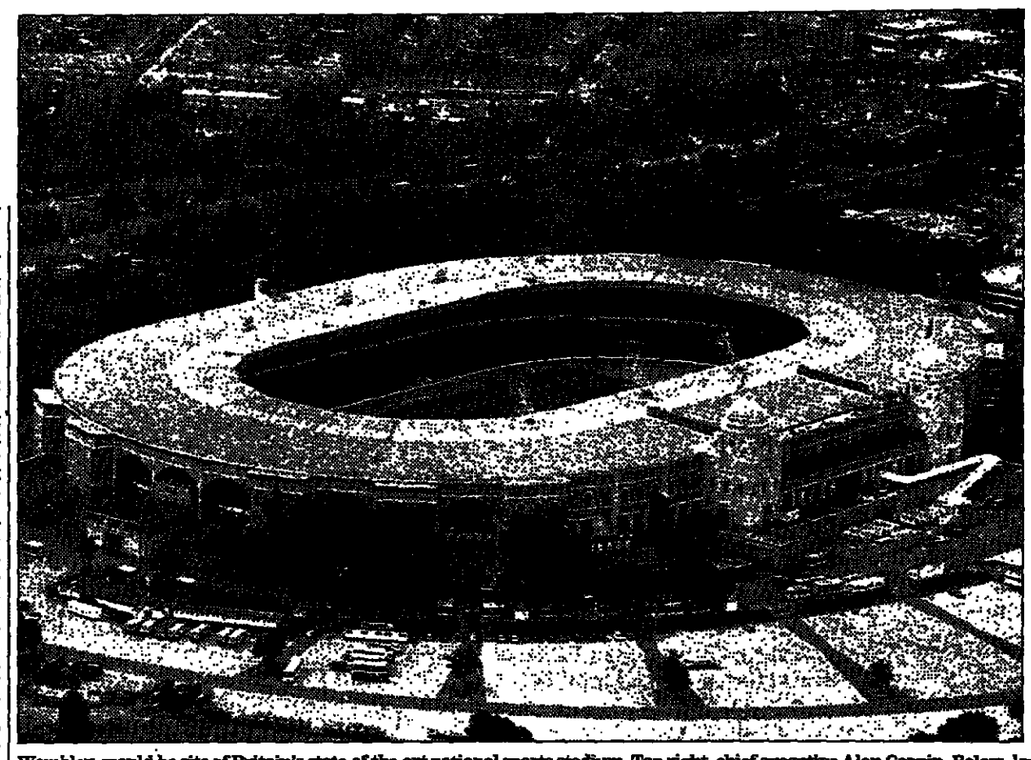
Earlier this year, investors were forced to put up another £130 million to help the company avoid bankruptcy. At their peak Wembley's debts stood at £150 million — the legacy of an ill-judged takeover spree in the late 1980s and early 1990s, which saw the self-styled "venue of legends" become the owner of businesses ranging from film-making and discos to ticket sales and catering.

Individual investors found their shares becoming practically worthless as Wembley moved into the record books for issuing more shares than any other organisation in the history of the City.

The price Wembley had to pay for the City's support was the demotion of the chairman, Sir Brian Wolfson, and the introduction, over his head, of the Swedish businessman Claes Hultman. But, alarmingly for some, the rest of the management team remained in place.

Then the chief executive, Alan Coppin, and the finance director, Nigel Potter, were given bonuses, of £66,500 and £45,000 respectively, for helping put together a financial rescue package when they had shared a boardroom with the architects of the disaster.

Supporters are concerned that the company which allowed Wembley to decay for so long is now trumpeting its expertise. "The arrogance is incredible," said Mr Crabbe. "Nobody's bothered to speak to football fans. Most will tell you it's a cesspit. That whole notion of tradition and the nostalgia of going to Wembley has been devalued by the way Wembley has been managed."



Wembley, would-be site of Britain's state-of-the-art national sports stadium. Top right, chief executive Alan Coppin. Below, long-time director Jarvis Astaire

Who's who on the troubled 'venue of legends' current board of directors

ALAN Coppin became Wembley's chief executive in May after being managing director since 1992 and a main board director since 1991. He was paid £203,000 last year, up from £130,000 the year before, including a £66,500 bonus for negotiating the refinancing package. Been with the group since 1988.

Nigel Potter, finance director since September 1992, used to be Cable & Wireless's director of finance for Bermuda, Caribbean and Atlantic division. His £160,000 salary last year included a one-off bonus of £45,000 for his part in the refinancing.

Jarvis Astaire — director with responsibility for greyhound racing, has been on the board since 1987 and has been deputy chairman of Wembley Stadium since 1984 as well as chairman of the racing subsidiary, GRA, since 1992. Drew a comparatively modest salary of £50,000 last year, although his shareholding is about £210,000.

Review

Wired up for savvy shocks

Derek Malcolm

Strange Days
London Film Festival
Odeon, Leicester Square

NO LONDON Film Festival within recent memory has opened with as controversial a choice as Kathryn Bigelow's Strange Days — a violent 40 million dollar futuristic thriller that mixes an innate pessimism with a pyrotechnical display of flash cinematic technique.

That it was made by a woman would be extraordinary if it wasn't for the fact that Bigelow had already proved with Blue Steel, a tough policier, and Point Break, a successful action thriller, that genres generally considered a male preserve can be confidently handled by a female director.

Scripted and produced by James Cameron, Bigelow's ex-husband, who directed True Lies and the Terminator films, Strange Days is set in a chaotic Los Angeles, full of poverty-stricken human detritus and criminal power-brokers, at the eve of the millennium.

Moving through this neon-lit nightmare is Lenny (Ralph Fiennes), an ex-cop who makes an illicit living selling clips of other people's lives on a digital recording.

They call this version of virtual reality "the wire" and it captures the physical and emotional purity of human experience — sight, sound, taste, smell and touch.

It has become the drug of choice and Lenny is dubbed the "Santa Claus of the subconscious", who knows what people want and gives it to them. What they want is generally sex.

The only clips that he refuses to sell are "blackjacks" or death clips.

But when a former accomplice is raped and murdered, Lenny gets a clip of the crime and is forced to relive it.

He's worried that his former girlfriend (Juliette Lewis) will be next and turns to a security agent, Mace (Angela Bassett), and another ex-cop, Max (Tom Sizemore), for help.

The problem for the film, which has so far failed to ignite American audiences, is the old one of painting a dark vision of a violent future which is exciting enough to thrill without glorifying the sex 'n 'violence. And it is not one which Bigelow comfortably solves.

The vaguely upbeat ending seems tacked on, the film is too long, and — because Bigelow is so good a technician — the violence and degradation is made to seem almost glamorous.

In the end, no matter what the moral, Strange Days gives off an odour of smart, savvy commercialism.

This is perhaps summed up best by Max's shallow cynicism — "You know how I know it's the end of the world, Lenny? Everything's already been done. Every kinda music, every goverment, every hairstyle. How we gonna make it for another thousand years, for Chris'sake?"

Not by inventing a new hairstyle, at any rate.

For more on the London Film Festival, see G2, pages 6, 7

Costly Heseltine labelled Tories' Million Dollar Man

Michael White
Political Editor

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday moved to saddle the title-conscious Michael Heseltine with a label he may not relish, that of Whitehall's "Million Dollar Man" whose extravagances cost the equivalent of 38 teachers' salaries.

According to figures extrapolated from parliamentary answers by the Lib Dems' Treasury spokesman, Malcolm Bruce, the former President of the Board of Trade is now costing £753,000 a year — more than a million US dollars — to sustain as Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State.

Cabinet Office officials moved quickly to poke holes in some of Mr Bruce's calculations.

The Lib Dems have totted up such items as Mr Heseltine's extra salary as a minister (£43,000), staffing costs in his new office (£345,000), the estimated cost to the taxpayer of his leased car and chauffeur (£44,000), and an estimated £77,000 — at £50 per square foot — for his famously large office, formerly a conference room in the Cabinet Office.

They have also thrown in £160,000 for the "electronic diary" which Opposition probing unearthed last week — although Cabinet Office officials stress it is actually an inter-departmental computer e-mail link set in train when David Hunt held most of Mr Heseltine's portfolio. It will enable ministers, their private office and press staff to communicate as most large companies now do via desktop personal computers. Whitehall is well behind the private sector on the information superhighway and its departmental computer systems have been unable to talk to each other.

Mr Bruce remains unimpressed. "When it comes to schools, it's cut, cut, cut; when it comes to the Minister For The Today Programme it's spend, spend, spend," he said. "This is a government with its priorities all wrong and taxpayers footing the bill. Mr Heseltine's only real role seems to be to pinch other cabinet ministers' ideas and flog those to death as the Government's most expensive PR man."

Among most MPs it remains unclear whether the Deputy Prime Minister is a PR man or is playing a dominant role as the Government's chief executive to John Major's chairman.

Given Mr Heseltine's weakness for large desks and larger titles he is fair game for political teasing, most MPs — including Conservatives — tend to agree, even if some of Mr Bruce's costs would have been incurred anyway.

Since he brought competition policy with him from the DTI and gave science to his successor, Ian Lang, in exchange, the number of civil servants in Mr Heseltine's Office of Public Service is actually smaller. His private office of nine staff is the same.

'Til the fat lady sues

continued from page 1

York and London, insists that the magazine knew the anecdote was false and that the story had in fact been attributed to the great (in every sense) Austrian-born contralto, Ernestine Schumann-Heink.

A similar story about Ms Schumann-Heink, who died in 1931, has been part of operatic lore for years, confirms Patrick Smith, editor of the New York-based Opera News, adding that he has never heard the story told about Ms Norman.

According to a 1992 biography of the teutonic diva, the incident took place at a performance in Arizona, when Ms Schumann-Heink had problems negotiating the doorway of her dressing room.

Chicago Magazine's version of the story had the singer becoming stuck in the orchestra while attempting to take a bow during a different performance.

Ms Schumann-Heink was reportedly unembarrassed by her weight — and the prodigious appetite which sustained it. Shocked by the size of a steak on her plate, the great tenor Enrico Caruso is said to have exclaimed: "Stina, surely you're not going to eat that alone." Ms Schumann-Heink's response: "Nein, nein. Mit potatoes."

Though she told one interviewer that her voice was shaped partly by the "expanse of my chest", Ms Norman is renowned for being prickly on the subject of her weight, which is said to have diminished considerably in recent years.

"She is extremely touchy about the subject of her size and always has been," said Mr Smith. Asked if his own magazine had incurred her wrath over references to it he replied: "Just put it this way, I prefer not to say."

The question of whether a singer's weight affects the quality of his or her voice has been a subject of endless debate among opera buffs.

The conductor Sir John Barbirolli complained that Maria Callas's voice was damaged when she lost weight in the mid-fifties, but many point to Placido Domingo and Kiri Te Kanawa as evidence that fat is not necessarily where it's at in the opera.

The hazards associated with oversize sopranos were highlighted in a performance of La Traviata, when Caruso tried in vain to lift Luisa Tetrazzin during the tragic death scene. "It was like trying to grip Michelin tyres," he remarked later.

Ms Norman, whose great acclaim includes an orchid named in her honour, has at least one thing in common with Ms Schumann-Heink. The American diva performed memorably during Bastille Day celebrations, wrapped in a Tricolour. Ms Schumann-Heink is remembered for singing to American troops during the first world war wrapped in the Stars and Stripes.

In a statement released by her publicists yesterday, Ms Norman said: "Racism is intolerable in any form. As human beings, we should not accept the communication of racism from other human beings, and we certainly must not permit it to gain institutional credence through the currency of the press."

Neither Classic CD magazine nor its publishers, Future Publishing, would comment on Ms Norman's lawsuit yesterday.

In Outlook tomorrow

Not-so-little weed

- The cannabis growers who've seen the light
- Are we winning the fight against cancer?
- Who the Prince of Wales really wants to meet

French net closes in on militants

Paul Webster in Paris

FRENCH police discovered a terrorist bomb-making factory near the northern city of Lille during a pre-dawn raid yesterday soon after arresting an Algerian suspected of having organised the bombing wave which has killed seven people and injured nearly 200.

Some reports said the suspect — Boualem Bensaid, alias Mehdi — had allegedly been overheard in a call from a bugged telephone kiosk in the 16th arrondissement of Paris ordering the bombing to be carried out this weekend at Lille's popular Wazemme Sunday market.

Nine other men of Algerian origin are being questioned about their links with Mr Bensaid, a 27-year-old student with a criminal record, allegedly sent to France several months ago to co-ordinate attacks by Muslim extremists in Lyon and Paris.

He was arrested in the capital on Wednesday night and France's interior minister, Jean-Louis Debré, later said details of the Lille operation gleaned during interrogation made clear it would have been particularly murderous.

"Bensaid would appear to be the central pivot of this criminal business," Mr Debré said. "A new stage has been reached in the investigation into Islamic attacks."

According to France's equivalent of the CID, the arrest is the most important breakthrough since the bombings started in July. It was linked to the shooting of another Algerian, Khaled Kelkal, near Lyon, last month.

"We believe the suspect had given orders for a bomb to be set off in a big Lille market on Sunday when there would have been thousands of shoppers," a detective said. "He appears to have been the link between terrorist commandos, including a Lyon unit run by Kelkal and the plotters in Lille."

Mr Bensaid's capture followed a series of bungled inquiries blamed on rivalry between police and secret services which had angered France's president, Jacques Chirac. But the police success could provoke further violence in poor immigrant suburbs which has intensified since Kelkal's death and the police shooting of a Moroccan at Laval, western France, early on Wednesday.

However, there may be some scepticism about the importance of the latest arrest because of two earlier claims by authorities to have broken the terrorist movement. After he was killed by gendarmerie paratroopers, Kelkal was named by the interior minister as being the mastermind, but it now appears that he was a minor figure.

Earlier, examining magistrates had tried to extradite from Sweden an Algerian fundamentalist, Abdelkrim Denechе, saying he had organised the campaign for the Islamic Armed Group (GIA), that opposes the Algerian government.

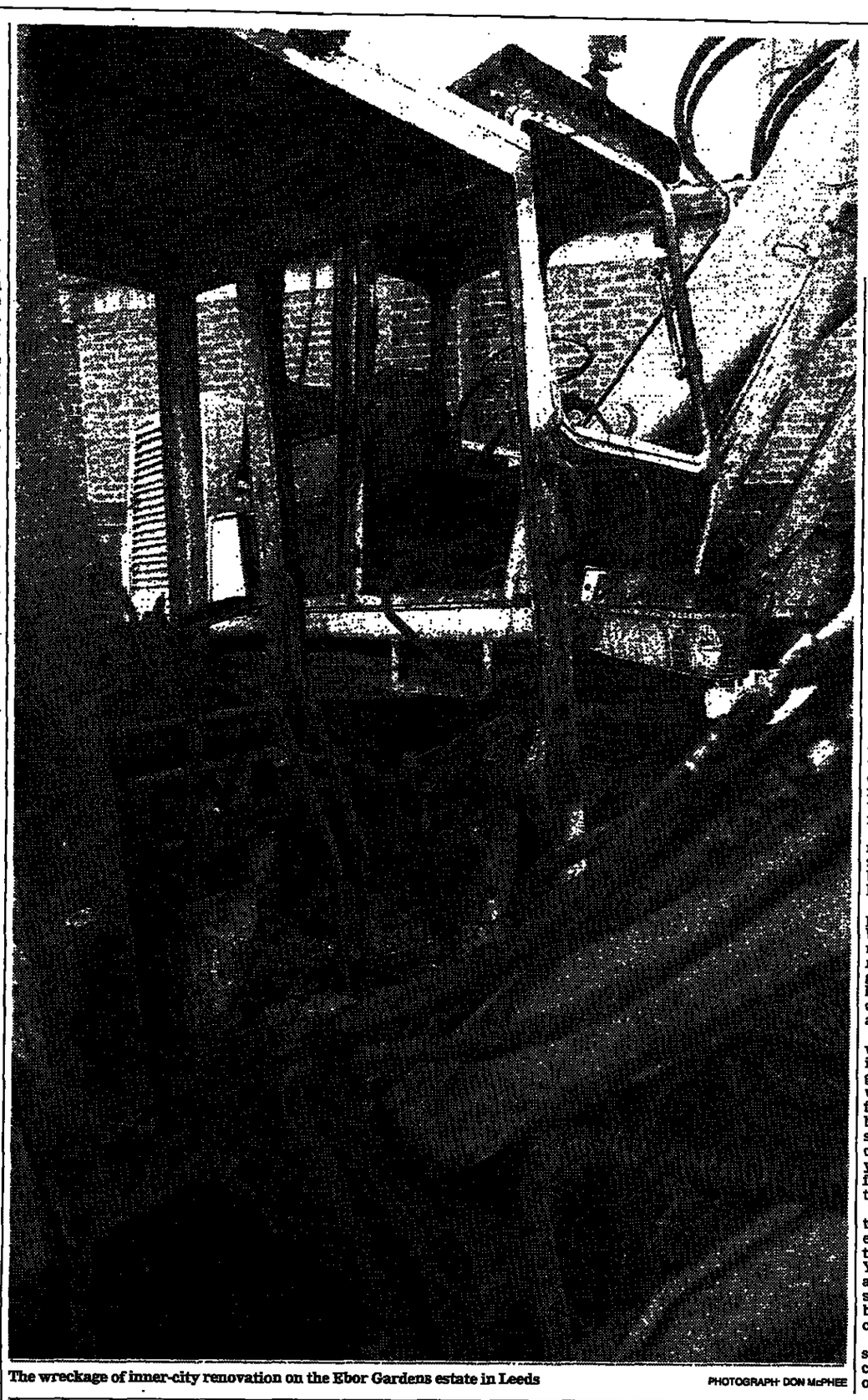
Police sources said that Mr Bensaid had been under observation by the special branch for several days following the arrest of Kelkal's alleged accomplices, one of whom was seriously injured in a gunfight. Soon after arresting Bensaid, police raided a flat at Villeneuve d'Asq, near Lille, and arrested three men. A primed gas-bottle bomb was seized along with explosives, metal debris and a timer similar to elements in three unexploded bombs recently discovered in Paris and Lyon.

"We were sure to find a bomb which is why the raid was mounted so fast," a detective said.

The arrested men were all said to have lived in high-rise suburbs with big North African communities, raising fears that police action could inflame riots that have hit a dozen immigrant areas since Kelkal's death.

Some of the most extensive damage occurred at Laval after Djamel Benakka, aged 26, was shot dead while escaping from a police station after allegedly stealing a revolver. Young people set fire to shops and fought with riot police after rejecting claims that Benakka had been shot in self defence.

Tension in immigrant areas has increased because of random identity checks involving more than 2 million people following the terrorist attacks.



The wreckage of inner-city renovation on the Ebor Gardens estate in Leeds PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Lawless gang devastates model estate

Martin Wainwright

FIVE minutes walk from the booming commercial district of Leeds, a vicious and determined campaign is wreaking havoc on a hugely subsidised inner-city regeneration project.

Putting up two fingers to £31.5 million of public funding, a gang of 30 youths has destroyed half-built housing, gutted an £80,000 excavator and other equipment and driven 40 stolen cars through security fencing before setting them alight.

During the day, the 1,200 houses of Ebor Gardens appear a model of urban revival. But the gang returns after dark to wreck and vandalise — seldom thieving — on the building site of 31 housing association homes designed to complete the flagship Estate Action scheme.

Resentment at outsiders moving on to the estate into newer and better homes than the tower block flats still waiting for renovation has combined with racism and fury at the deliberate positioning of the site on local joyriders' main "playland".

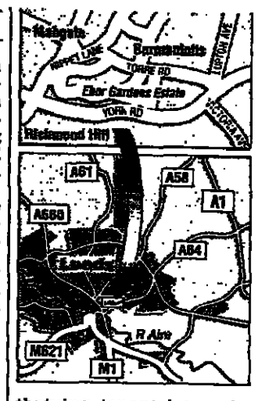
John Alsop, the building manager, and his colleagues say they have been told bluntly: "We're not going to let these houses get built."

One builder said: "We're putting roof trusses on today, but it's anyone's guess how much will be left tomorrow."The four security guards who take over at night have been forced to flee on occasion, or lock themselves in a cabin for safety.

The attacks follow a pattern which is increasingly alarming the Home Office and other government agencies. Last week, the Archdeacon of Sheffield spoke out about "society breaking down" on the sprawling Manor estate in his city, where after dusk lawless youngsters smash and burn fences, steal cars and threaten residents.

"On Ebor Gardens, we need to get local people to give us evidence to lead to prosecutions," said Nigel Swift of West Yorkshire police, whose staff at nearby Killingbeck police station know most of the gang, but have so far not managed to catch them in the act.

Residents on the estate of smart brick terraces are clearly intimidated, in spite of a perky newsletter and



thriving tenants' associations. Few want to comment, but one mother said: "It's terrible. You can see all the good work here with your own eyes. And then we have this stupid carry-on."

The city council has been driven to paying a surveillance company to watch for the vandals from an anonymous house.

"We have also installed closed circuit television in the four tower blocks at Ebor Gardens," said Lynne Pennington, the officer overseeing the three-year Estate Action scheme. "Crime generally has dropped dramatically, but there is this small, anti-social element."

Mr Alsop, sharing out repair tasks yet again, said: "We've been told that this site is exactly where they used to race their stolen cars, and they won't have it. But it's not just us. Wates and Henry Boot, who did the other estate houses, have had endless damage too."

In spite of the racist slogans sprayed on the cabins, the fact that 13 of the houses are being built by Leeds' only black-led housing association, Unity, is not seen as central to the attacks. The two wrecked terrace houses belong to another association with no ethnic connection, and other Unity homes have been successfully built elsewhere on the Gardens.

There is concern, though, that racism could be used to twist the screw on the "outsiders" argument, with Leeds the base for a small group of extreme rightwing activists. Pressure is mounting for a police blitz, co-ordinated with the city council, possibly including evictions.

C of E poised to withdraw BSkyB investment

Andrew Culf
Media Correspondent

THE Church of England is expected to announce today that it is withdrawing its £3.6 million investment in BSkyB because of the satellite station's stake in Playboy TV.

The Methodist Church decided earlier this week to sell its £846,000 holding in the new channel, which eschews the word pornography, describing itself as "quality erotic programming".

A spokeswoman for the Church Commissioners said last night: "We are actively considering whether or how to review our holding. We do take the launch of the porn channel very seriously."

The Church Commissioners hold shares worth £2,035,000 in Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB, and the Central Board of Finance, which looks after money from the parishes, has £1.6 million. The two bodies are expected to take a joint decision today.

The spokeswoman said: "This is an area where there could be a conflict with the teachings of the Church and the ethical and moral values of its members."

Pressure on the commissioners has come from arch traditionalists, including the Venerable George Austin, Archdeacon of York, who said he would be unhappy if the church was making money out of pornography.

The Church of England's ethical policy bans direct investment in companies whose main businesses are tobacco, alcohol, gambling or newspapers. The Church withdrew its investments in South Africa during the apartheid years. Peter Webster, executive director of the Ethical Investment Research Service, said that investors were becoming increasingly concerned about pornographic channels.

"More companies are becoming involved in this kind of area with the expansion of cable and satellite services," he said. His service, which vets potential investments for would-be shareholders, added "adult" entertainment as a new category to be checked this year.

A spokeswoman for the Methodist Church said it took its decision to express dissatisfaction with material which was "designed wholly to provide sexual stimulation, and which degrades and exploits human beings".

Playboy TV launched at midnight on Wednesday and is to broadcast for four hours a night. The signal is encrypted and BSkyB subscribers have to pay an additional £5.99 per month.

BSkyB, which has a 40 per cent stake in the channel, said it regretted the Methodists' action. "We hope that in the fullness of time they will reconsider their position. It should be borne in mind that the Playboy channel is completely legal and has been cleared for transmission by the appropriate authorities."

The channel spent £1.5 million on an advertising campaign with the slogan "Morgasms — let's make love". Programmes in the first month include Sex Under Hot Lights, Babewatch and Playmate Six Pack.

Rita Lewis, Playboy's managing director, said Playboy TV had 12 million subscribers in the US. "Its high production values and variety of programmes will separate it from other adult services."

Anti-hunt lobby guns for leader

Paul Brown, Environment Correspondent

ANTI-HUNT protesters have accused the leader of the League Against Cruel Sports of treachery and demanded his dismissal after he suggested fox hunting could have a "new lease of life" if it gave up the use of terriers.

Jim Barrington, who has been executive director of the League for seven years, has survived a vote of no confidence in the executive committee, but may be disciplined. Some of the 50,000 members have already resigned in protest and regional organisers have been told to wait for letters from the executive committee on what action will follow.

Whatever the letter says, several regional groups are determined to oust Mr Barrington by calling an extraordinary general meeting of members.

Mr Barrington's remarks were made as he was being interviewed for the pro-hunting magazine The Field. Asked about the use of terriers, which are put down stopped up earths to kill foxes, he said: "I regard it as a degenerate and disgusting activity. If there was no terrier work and foxes were given best, the league would feel less antagonistic towards hunting. It would have a new lease of life and a longer future than at present."

A former chairman of the league, Chris Williamson, now the regional representative for Derbyshire, said: "What Jim Barrington has said beggars belief. I regard it as treachery. Sadly he has got to go. If he doesn't, then we will see the league's active members — its backbone — resigning in their droves.

"He now seems to have gone completely off the rails. I cannot understand why, just as we glimpse the chance of a Labour government and a ban on hunting, we are offering a lifeline to the fox-hunting fraternity."

Janet Smart, the league's North-west regional representative, said: "I was absolutely disgusted at the stupid comments. The members are seething about this. We have been put in an untenable position. We feel betrayed."

Mr Barrington had gone to ground himself last night, but he issued a statement in which he said he was asked a hypothetical question about what would happen if hunts gave up terrier work. "The inference from the article was that the league would then give up its campaign against fox hunting. This is simply not true. The league is as committed as ever to the abolition of all hunting of a live quarry with hounds. This is also my own personal view." He would not resign.

Mr Barrington has been a high-profile and successful campaigner, having won over the Labour Party to the idea of a free vote on hunting should it come to power.

Last night, the hunting lobby was happy at the league's troubles. Edmund Vestey, chairman of the Masters of Fox Hounds Association, said: "The league is our principal enemy and if there is disunity within its ranks we cannot be too sorry about that. I personally respect anyone who says what he thinks and if Jim Barrington's own members don't like that, well that's up to them."

33% OFF DUTY FREE.

GO TO FRANCE MORE OFTEN.

WE DO.

WITH 40 CAR SHUTTLES A DAY, AND NO NEED TO BOOK, YOU CAN'T MISS IT. PHONE 0990 35 35 35 OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT. TICKETS CAN BE PRE-PURCHASED OR BOUGHT ON THE DAY.

le Shuttle

EURO TUNNEL

The images form a riveting narrative, each deriving power from what follows: safe and unsafe sex for money always counted upfront. Cocaine snorting, crack smoking, a man with a wedding ring urinating. And then there's the single sweet kiss: a middle manager type bends down to the upturned lips of a beauteous blonde who holds a cordless phone.

Review cover story

Holy alliance demolished unnoticed domestic violence measure at the eleventh hour

'Pop gun' Mail article became 'mushroom cloud' of protest as Lord Chancellor failed to convince religious groups and right-wing MPs they were barking up the wrong tree

William Oddie . . . aghast at 'consolidation measure'

How power of the right scuppered Mackay family bill

John Mullin and Rebecca Smithers

WILLIAM Oddie, a former Anglican chaplain now in the embrace of Rome, scarcely imagined the fall-out his journalism might effect. "It was like taking a pop gun and watching a mushroom cloud go up," he said yesterday, with no little pride.

His 1,000-word piece, published on page 8 of the Daily Mail 11 days ago, railed against the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill. The article, headlined How could MPs fail to spot this blow to marriage?, effectively scuppered the bill which would have extended property rights to unmarried partners.

Until then it was uncontroversial, about to pass on to the statute books almost unnoticed, through a fast-track procedure. The bill had been around for two years, with its genesis back in 1989.

Several groups, like Christian Action Research and Education, and the Family Law Action Group, took a dim view of the proposed legislation. They lobbied MPs this year, but their pleas largely fell on deaf ears. Only John Patten, the former education secretary, seemed to have woken up to the proposals.

The groups had given up hope of blocking the Lord Chancellor's plans. Michael Pelling, of Families Need Fathers, one of several groups which believed the legislation signalled the demise of marriage, said yesterday: "To be honest, we thought we had lost our chance."

Oddie was approached three weeks ago by a Westminster source, representing a Tory backbencher whom he will not name. He was urged to study the bill, which the Government was saying was simply a consolidation procedure, containing nothing new. He was aghast.

Oddie contacted the Sunday Telegraph, then under Charles Moore, who had also converted to Catholicism, over the ordination of women priests. He was commissioned to write a piece, but it was left out because of pressure of space for two weeks.

Oddie was worried about the approaching third reading of the bill. He contacted the Daily Mail, with its strong adherence to family values. The paper set Steve Doughty, its Whitehall correspondent, about stirring the pot with a front page story based around Oddie's piece.

He had limited luck that afternoon. Only one Tory MP, unnamed, was quoted, and those remarks were anodyne. But the anti-lobby, which had built up informal contacts over the previous year, swung into action as soon as the story appeared.

Hugh McKinney, a researcher for Neville Trotter, MP for Tynemouth, and chairman of Conservative Family Campaign, immediately sent copies to the organisation's 25 MPs. They included Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury, who had previously proposed a tax on childless couples; and Ann and Nicholas Winterton. Oddie's wife, who works for Family and Youth Concern, the Oxford-based traditionalists' think tank, was similarly at work.

There were angry scenes in the whips' office. Downing Street announced it was sticking to its plans. After nine of the MPs met the Lord Chancellor last Thursday, the Cabinet decided to allow a week-long breathing space. The bill was doomed.

The MPs included Sir David Mitchell, an ex-minister associated with the party's liberal tradition, as well as rightwingers like Patrick Nicholls, Lady Olga Maitland and Edward Leigh. But it was the intervention of John MacGregor, the former leader of the House, which proved critical.

Lord Mackay, according to one version, was unable to convince some of the more hysterical elements they were barking up the wrong tree. At one point, Lord Mackay is said to have rolled his eyes heavenwards in an appeal to the Almighty.

Some were confusing the bill with the no-fault divorce proposals, which were scheduled to form part of the Queen's Speech this month. The Divorce Reform Bill, which also emanated from the Law Commission, now seems to be in doubt.

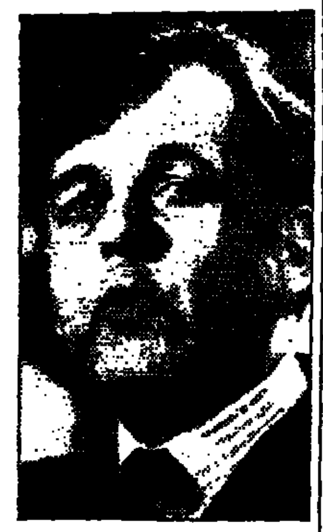
Brazier, a Catholic, who was on the second reading committee for the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill, seemed a little embarrassed yesterday. There had been scant debate at the short committee meeting because it took place one hour after John Redwood's first press conference after announcing his challenge for the Tory leadership.

"Our minds were simply on other things," he said. He maintains now there are serious problems with some aspects of the family homes proposals, and its effects on the sanctity of marriage.

There are other reasons why such an unexpected furore followed Oddie's article. Several Conservative MPs fear losing ground on another issue it has traditionally dominated. One said yesterday: "Labour are stealing our clothes on law and order. Blair is trying to do it with the family too. We can't appear soft on the old values."

The Conservatives' slim majority is also a factor. It gave opponents of the bill far greater influence than their numbers might suggest.

Those who scuppered the proposals, at least in their present form, were pleased last night. Their next mission is the divorce bill. Lord Mackay may well have to make a further appeal for divine intervention.



How the Daily Mail spearheaded opposition to the bill, whose foes also included John Patten (top right), Lady Olga Maitland and Julian Brazier

Main points of the bill

THE Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill would have streamlined the process of getting injunctions to stop domestic violence, and extended remedies now limited to spouses and cohabitees to ex-spouses, former cohabitees and a range of relatives, writes Clare Dyer.

It would not have given cohabitees new protection from domestic violence or a new right to evict a partner — these rights have existed since the 1970s. Under the bill, courts would have power to transfer a council or statutory tenancy to a cohabitee as well as a wife, a power which has existed in Scotland since 1981.

One provision which seems to have confused Tory backbenchers would allow cohabitees to use the same court procedure as wives to determine what, if any, share of a partner's property they were entitled to. This would not have increased the limited rights they already have to claim a share, but simply allowed them to use a simpler court procedure.

Courts would have been able to evict a suspected child abuser, to spare an abused child the trauma of being taken into care, and the bill would have made it easier for men to be arrested for breaching domestic violence injunctions. The simplified procedure was expected to save the legal aid fund millions of pounds.

Grassroots tell Currie to join earnings revolt

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

EDWINA Currie yesterday joined the Tory MPs planning to defy the Prime Minister on the disclosure of MPs' outside earnings, saying she was likely to abstain in Monday's vote because her constituents would not accept MPs keeping their parliamentary earnings secret.

The former minister and MP for Derbyshire South, shook a private meeting of the Tory backbench 1922 commmittee last night by saying she was under pressure from her local party to abstain. "I will take soundings this weekend, but I will be amazed if they say vote for secrecy. A lot of my colleagues do not understand the intensity of feeling amongst the public about this, or its impact in marginal seats".

She suggested that John Major's alternative course — a ban on paid advocacy by MPs on behalf of outside interests — was too complex for the general public.

A member of the Nolan committee, Anthony King, the professor of politics at Essex University, yesterday warned that Parliament faced a real diminution in its standing if it voted for secrecy in defiance of the Nolan recommendations.

"I myself would still prefer to see MPs required to disclose only those elements of their income that directly relates to their being MPs." But a vote for secrecy would "deeply displease" the public and seen to be niggardly, he said.

The Nolan committee will meet next week to review its collective response to Monday's vote. In the Commons, Tony Blair told Mr Major he would suffer a permanent stain if he voted for secrecy. Mr Blair claimed the issue centred on the "squalid, monied interests of the Conservative Party"

He warned the Prime Minister: "If now, in weakness, you go back on your word to implement the report you commissioned, it will leave a stain on your prime ministership and your Government that will not be removed until this rotten administration is swept from office."

He said it was a "simple, honest requirement that members of Parliament who have outside financial interests connected with their being MPs should disclose the amount of money they earn from them".

Mr Major insisted the Tory-dominated select committee had gone beyond the Nolan report by banning paid advocacy. The income MPs "earn for other activities, explicitly approved by Parliament, seems to me to be a matter between them and the Inland Revenue inspectors." He said full disclosure of parliamentary consultancies would lead inevitably to MPs being forced to disclose all their earnings, whether or not they were related to parliamentary work.

He went on: "I do not favour a wholly professional House staffed entirely by honourable members who are professional politicians and nothing else." Mr Blair replied: "The Nolan committee isn't stopping people having outside interests".

Labour candidates in 100 Tory marginal seats are undertaking local media drives this weekend on the theme of "what have Tory MPs have got to hide from their constituents?"

Barred Labour candidate issues protest libel writs

Seumas Milne, Labour Editor

LIZ Davies, the leftwinger barred from standing as a Labour parliamentary candidate, yesterday issued libel writs against three fellow Islington councillors who made allegations to the party's national executive committee about her conduct at a town hall meeting.

James Purnell, Tal Michael and Phil Kelly are being sued over letters sent to Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, during the investigation into her candidacy for Leeds North-east in August and September. The Financial Times has also been served with a writ over a report on the case.

The letters focus on a protest at the proposed closure of an adventure playground during a public meeting of the north London council's education committee in November last year, when Ms Davies was said to have "incited" protesters.

Ms Davies rejects the allegations, and is supported by five independent witnesses.

She said last night that she had been compelled to take action to clear her name.

A Labour Party spokeswoman said that the three councillors had been given "some financial help and initial legal advice" by the party, but it had yet to be decided whether to fund the entire defence.

Anthony Julius, of solicitors Mishcon de Reya, representing the three defendants, said last night that Ms Davies had no case.

His clients would be making their own counter-claim for defamation over a letter Ms Davies wrote to Tribune magazine last month, accusing the three of repeating lies and smears.

You don't have to be a Direct Line customer to apply.

Sorry building societies, your mortgage rates are still too high.
(Direct Line is *still* £50* a month cheaper.)

*Typical Mortgage of £80,000 repayable over 25 years (300 monthly payments).

Lender	APR (Variable)	Monthly Repayments (after tax relief)	Monthly saving with Direct Line	Total Payable
WOOLWICH	8.6%	£594.90	£56.98	£178,470
HALIFAX	8.6%	£594.05	£56.13	£178,215
NATIONWIDE	8.5%	£592.91	£54.99	£177,873
DIRECT LINE	7.2%	£537.92	—	£161,376

APRs based on Standard Variable Rate Repayment Mortgages, correct at 9th October 1995. MIRAS has been calculated under current tax legislation which may alter.

Building societies have changed their rates. We've changed our rates. So nothing's really changed. You *still* save over £50 a month if you transfer your existing mortgage to Direct Line. Your legal costs are *still* limited to only £300 and you can *still* arrange everything from the comfort of your own home.

DIRECT LINE MORTGAGES

0181 649 9099 LONDON | 0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER | 0141 221 9099 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. GA27

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Oftel balks at trade-off

Nicholas Bannister, Technology Editor

TELECOM regulator Don Cruickshank yesterday insisted that social objectives such as connecting schools to the information superhighway should not be traded off for commercial favours.

Mr Cruickshank, director general of Oftel, welcomed Labour's assurance that BT would not be allowed to become a monopoly supplier of superhighway links for schools, an issue he raised on Wednesday.

But he claimed the party was wrong to promise to lift the restrictions which prevent BT from broadcasting entertainment to the home in return for a pledge to provide schools, health centres and libraries with free connections to the superhighway.

Margaret Beckett, shadow trade and industry secretary, said: "The understanding between BT and the Labour Party will be within a tough pro-competition policy with a clear presumption in favour of competition and powers to impose financial penalties where restrictive or anti-competitive practices are proven. We have repeatedly made it clear that we do not support either a cable company monopoly or a BT monopoly."

The broadcasting ban on BT is designed to give the cable operators sufficient time to complete their networks and recoup some of the billions they have invested before having to face direct competition from BT.

The Government has refused to set a date for lifting the ban but has promised to review it by 2001 at the latest. Oftel is to review the situation in 1998.

BT claims that it would have to spend up to £15 billion to upgrade its network to carry multimedia services.

A BT spokeswoman said the group did not want a monopoly to operate in areas where cable companies operate, but pointed out that BT had a national network, covering areas where there were no cable networks.

"The UK is a world leader in this area," she said.

Mr Cruickshank said that laudable social goals such as linking schools to the superhighways could be achieved independently of any decision on the broadcasting ban — by setting up a universal service fund.

Politicians would decide the universal service required, such as free provision of superhighway links for schools and hospitals. the cost would be met by the fund.

Galloway noses ahead in fight for new seat

Erlend Clouston

GEORGE Galloway, the controversial MP for Glasgow Hillhead, is expected to beat off narrowly a woman solicitor's challenge to win the nomination for the new seat of Glasgow Kelvin.

His support on the constituency's general committee is believed to be just powerful enough to beat Shiona Waldren, who has alarmed the 41-year-old Galloway with victories in two out of the five local party organisations.

Earlier this week Ms Waldren, aged 44, secured the nominations of the women's section by 21 votes to 10 and the Hillhead/Hyndland branch by 42 to 29. However, Mr Galloway, who has fought a determined running battle with what he terms "middle class intellectuals" since unseating Roy Jenkins in 1987, is expected to carry the remaining two branches and the executive committee.

Under Labour Party rules the general committee may vote to have a shortlist of only one. With the committee sympathetic to Mr Galloway's hard-line socialism, Ms Waldren's challenge is expected to fail.

The fact that she has been able to ruffle the feathers of the so-called "Gorgeous George" as much as she has reflects both his unpopularity in moderate sections of the party and the Machiavellian nature of Glasgow Labour politics. It is suspected that Ms Waldren's campaign has been encouraged by factions backing the bid by Mike Watson, the MP for the disappearing seat of Glasgow Central, to secure the nomination for another seat, Glasgow Govan.

Mr Watson's principal opponent is Asian millionaire businessman Mohammed Sarwar, whose candidature has been supported by Mr Galloway. "Mike may well be trying to tie George down," a senior Labour source commented last night.

The probable survival of Mr Galloway may be viewed with mixed feelings by the leadership. While he can be a charismatic speaker, he has embarrassed the party by apparently praising Saddam Hussein, and last week denounced Kuwait's rulers as "a Mafia-style family."

MAKE YOUR OWN ASSESSMENT.

HOW ENGLAND'S UNIVERSITIES SCORE FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH.

In today's issue of The Times Higher Education Supplement we publish the latest seven subject assessments for English universities and match them up with earlier research ratings.

The table, along with assessments for the eight subjects assessed earlier, is also available on *Thesis*, The Times Higher Education Supplement Internet Service at: http://thesis.newsint.co.uk

So if you want to find out who does what best, make sure you see The Times Higher.

THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

OUT NOW AT NEWSAGENTS

Cash deal in 1993 would have saved Swan Hunter

MoD's £20m for shipyard too late

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

THE Ministry of Defence is poised to pay £20 million in compensation to the receivers of Swan Hunter shipyard, money which two years ago would have saved the Tyneside yard from bankruptcy and the loss of 2,200 jobs.

The disclosure yesterday led to a demand for an inquiry from Stephen Byers, Labour MP for Wallsend, whose constituency includes the shipyard, to Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary.

Officials are close to agreeing a deal after privately admitting £5 million liability in 1992 over design failures in the building of Fort George, a £140 million Royal Navy auxiliary oiler replenishment vessel. The decision to pay the money amounts to a U-turn from their public position, which was that they sought to claim money from the now-bankrupt shipyard for a delay in the delivery of the ship.

Details of the Ministry of Defence's private position have come to light after the leaking to the Newcastle Journal of confidential letters between Roger Vaughan, joint chief executive of Swan Hunter, and Jonathan Aitken, then minister of defence procurement.

In a letter to Mr Aitken on November 10, 1992 — five months before the company became bankrupt — Mr Vaughan warned that it was heading for a £24 million overdraft by March 1993 on government work, and this was "clearly unacceptable".

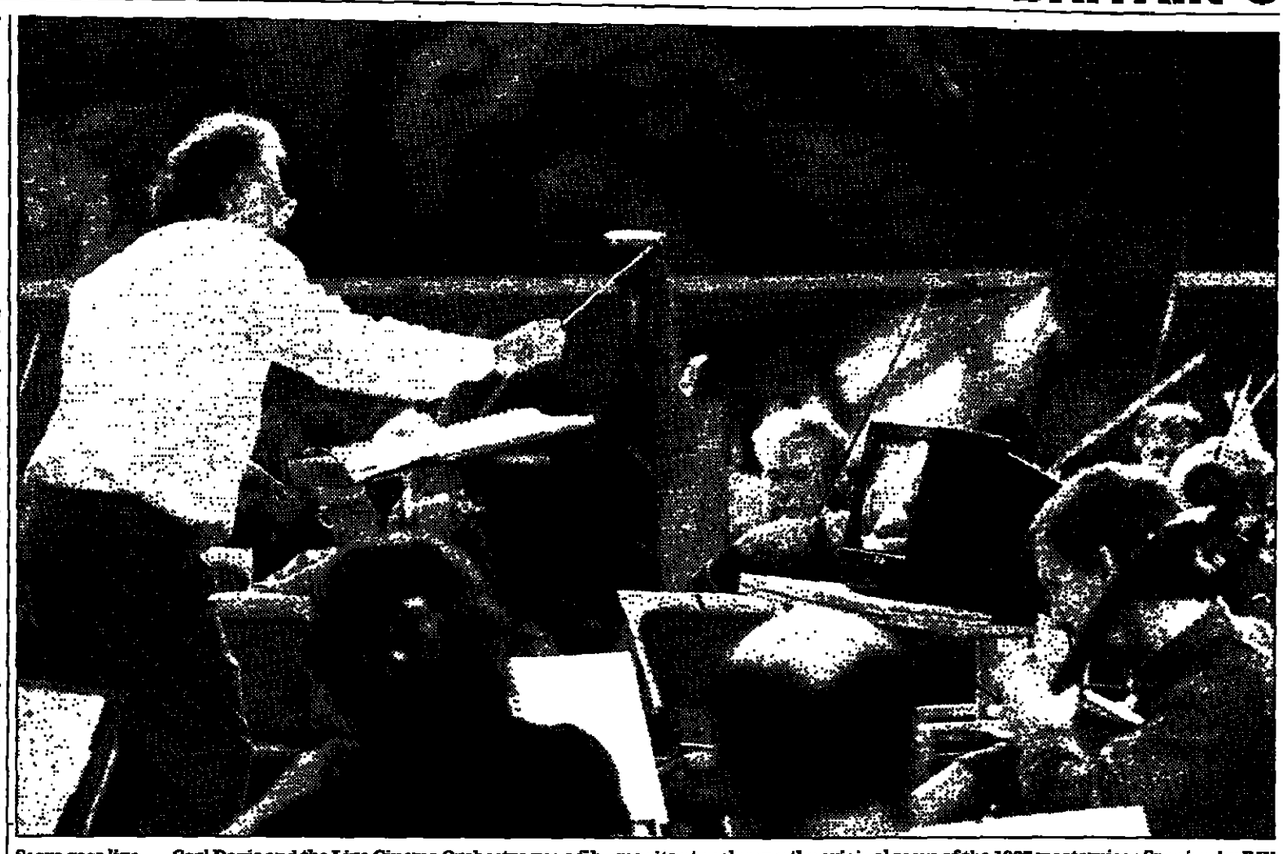
He said the company was additionally owed more than £10 million for design shortfalls on the Fort George, caused by the company's inheriting faulty data from the Harland and Wolff shipyard, which built the Fort Victoria, the first vessel.

The letter added: "Lloyds Bank, the company's main bankers, remains very supportive of our position but cannot be expected to support the company further in the absence of the ministry advancing a substantial proportion of monies outstanding on these contracts."

A reply in December from Charles Betts, director general of surface ships at the MoD, after a meeting with Mr Aitken said the ministry would not accelerate payments and did not fully accept that the £10 million was owed in respect of the Fort George.

"There are significant parts of [your counsel's] Opinion which the MoD cannot accept, but the contract, as amended, may impose liability on the MoD, in principle, in some areas. The MoD would therefore, in principle, be prepared to make an interim payment of £5 million against the claim."

Now, however, the MoD is poised to pay nearly £20 million to Price Waterhouse, the receivers, a year after the yard closed. If the money had been paid in early 1993 the firm could have kept within its £10 million overdraft facility and bid for an Oman patrol boat order.



Score goes live . . . Carl Davis and the Live Cinema Orchestra use a film monitor to rehearse the original score of the 1927 masterpiece Sunrise, by F W Murnau, which they will play when the film is screened at the Royal Festival Hall next Tuesday for the London Film Festival PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Nurseries lose out as £5m goes on red tape

John Carvel
and Donald MacLeod

MINISTERS admitted yesterday that they were planning to spend more on the bureaucracy of running the first experimental year of the controversial nursery voucher scheme than on providing extra places for four-year-olds to increase the spread of pre-school education.

Robin Squire, the schools minister, said he was budgeting £5 million for administering the pilot phase in four trial areas: Norfolk, and the London boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth, and Westminster.

He hoped vouchers worth £1,100 per child would lever open new pre-school places for 4,500 youngsters — at a cost of £4.95 million.

The total budget for the pilot phase will be £22 million, but most will go on refinancing for the 11,100 pre-school places which are already provided, mainly by local authorities.

This arithmetic gave extra ammunition to the opposition parties, which have complained that the voucher scheme will divert resources into administration, and subsidise better-off parents who are already able to afford private sector nurseries and playgoups. Labour and the Liberal Democrats think the money would be better spent directly on providing extra places for three and four-year-olds.

The costings were revealed as the Pre-school Learning Alliance — which represents 20,000 playgroups caring for an estimated 800,000 children — was threatened with the loss of its government grant.

The alliance forced Mr Squire to back down over attempts to give playgroup parents only half the value of the £1,100 voucher. Now his officials have announced that the £1.2 million grant from the Department for Education and Employment is under review and a grant from the Department of Health is due to be ended in 1997.

Margaret Lochrie, chief executive of the alliance, said the move would put training of pre-school staff at risk and deprive groups of support when they were coping with the introduction of vouchers. "It is going to affect the potential quality of the provision and the expansion the Government wants to see."

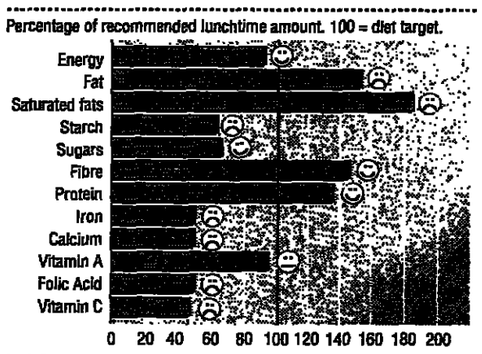
● Chris Woodhead, the Government's chief inspector of schools, has called for the sacking of 15,000 incompetent teachers as an essential step to improving standards.

The unsatisfactory 15,000 — nearly 4 per cent of the profession — had about 375,000 children in their care. The impact of their bad teaching was "critically important", he said in a recording for the BBC's Panorama, to be screened on Monday.

His estimates were based on a sample of 100,000 lessons observed by the Office for Standards in Education.

Dinnertime!

Percentage of recommended lunchtime amount. 100 = diet target.



Friday menu

Sample menu from one school's cash cafeteria, with numbers choosing that item. 400 pupils in survey.

Beef curry	45	Fresh melon	2
Brown rice	45	Soup & roll	0
Vegetable stir fry	40	Side salad	1
Beefburger & bap	48	Chips	6
Baked sausages	100	Carrots & parsnips	34
Sausage rolls	41	Baked beans	17
Sandwiches	33	Fresh fruit	15
Hot dogs	24	Chocolate cracknell	160
		Cheese & crackers	40

Source: National Heart Forum, School Meals Assessment Pack

Heart disease alert over children's eating habits

Sally Weale on a new campaign to provide a more nutritional menu for school meals

AN ALLIANCE of health campaigners yesterday claimed that school meals fell short of nutritional targets, and warned that rates of coronary heart disease would soar in the 21st century if childhood eating habits did not change.

Since the Government abolished statutory dietary requirements for school meals in 1980, the quality of meals around the country had "varied considerably", with children's diets deteriorating despite greater choice, the National Heart Forum claimed.

The forum, which represents 35 organisations in health and nutrition, issued its warning as the Government launched National School Meals Week, which starts today.

To mark the event, the schools minister, Cheryl Gillan, announced that the Government would publish voluntary nutritional guidelines next year.

"Schools can and do promote healthy choices, not only by putting healthy options on the menu, but also through the curriculum and a whole school approach to health education and healthy living," she said.

Imogen Sharp, director of the forum, said the guidelines were welcome, but the real need was for statutory requirements which involved proper monitoring and enforcement.

With compulsory competitive tendering in schools, outside caterers offering a cash cafeteria service were under pressure to sell — often competing with a local chip shop or burger joint — and so offering what children wanted, rather than what might be good for them, she said.

According to a recent survey, up to 46 per cent of the calories of school meals came from fat, compared with the government-recommended maximum of 35 per cent.

To avoid poor diet, the forum says nutritional standards should be included in all school catering contracts; compliance with standards should be regularly reviewed, and contract performance should be included in school annual reports.

The forum has devised a computer programme called the School Meals Assessment Pack, which is designed to help schools, parents, and pupils to assess the nutritional quality of school meals.

Pack available from SMAP, PO Box 7, London W5 2GQ, £43.50 inc p&p.

DON'T MISS makro THIS WEEKEND!

IN EVERY MAKRO STORE THIS WEEKEND YOU'LL FIND WE'VE LOWERED OUR LOW PRICES AND ADDED TO OUR EXTRA VALUE OFFERS – ALL YOU NEED TO SAVE POUNDS IS YOUR MAKRO TRADECARD

20% OFF ALL MENS, LADIES AND CHILDRENS CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR INCLUDING MANY TOP NAME BRANDS AND ALL THE LATEST FASHION STYLES

SAVE £50 ON THIS AMSTRAD CD MINI HI-FI WAS £129.99 +VAT NOW ONLY 79.99 +VAT

BUY ANY 2 Disney VIDEOS ©The Walt Disney Company AND GET 454G QUALITY STREET ABSOLUTELY FREE

INCREDIBLE VALUE BALTIC PREMIUM LAGER 5%ABV 24 x 500ML ONLY 9.99 +VAT

OFFERS AVAILABLE ON SATURDAY 4th AND SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER

makro THE UK's "No. 1 DISCOUNTER" OF BIG NAME BRANDS

IF YOU'VE NOT REGISTERED YOUR BUSINESS FOR A FREE MAKRO TRADECARD CALL 0800 450000 NOW!

AVAILABLE ONLY AT PHARMACIES

Bathe away the bugbear of eczema & dry skin

Prescribed by dermatologists and GPs for a range of medically related dry skin disorders, the EMULSIDERM formulation is a unique, clinically-proven skin treatment available now from your pharmacist, without prescription.

EMULSIDERM's unique combination of *three active ingredients* has been specially developed not only to gently soothe, smooth and rehydrate the dry, itchy skin of dermatitis. EMULSIDERM has also been scientifically proven to combat the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* – a bug which extensive medical research has linked to flare-ups of atopic eczema.

EMULSIDERM does *not* contain any steroid or any perfume or lanolin, and is suitable for all ages. For quick and effective skin therapy, simply add a small quantity to your bath.

CLINICALLY PROVEN

Ask for EMULSIDERM *by name* at the pharmacy section of your local chemist. Always read the label.

Emulsiderm®

Zone of contention

Yeltsin's illness is allowing conflicting voices in the Kremlin to emerge, writes **James Meek** in Moscow

Arms treaty hits obstacle

AN EPOCH-making arms treaty which has turned thousands of European tanks and guns into scrap metal has little chance of being completed by the time it comes into effect in a fortnight, Western and Russian officials concede.

There is concern in Nato that President Boris Yeltsin's illness will make it impossible for him to resolve a last-minute dispute between Russia's defence and foreign ministries over stationing more weapons in the south and north-west of the country than the treaty allows. "We're in a position of great confusion today," one Western diplomat in Moscow said.

The Conventional Forces in Europe treaty (CFE) was one of the triumphs of Gorbachev-era diplomacy. Most of its provisions have already been fulfilled. But there are fears that Republican Party backwoodsmen in the United States and Russian nationalists will exploit residual CFE difficulties to question other post-cold war agreements.

A Russian military analyst, Sergei Oznobishchev, said there would still be too many tanks in Europe after the treaty. Further, no one had explained to Russia what would happen to the weapons allocations of former Warsaw Pact states like Poland if they joined Nato.

Agreed between Nato and the Warsaw Pact shortly before the latter fell apart, the CFE promised proof that peace had come, with a joint undertaking to destroy or withdraw from the European theatre more than 16,000 tanks — more than were on both sides on the eastern front in 1944 — and thousands of other armoured vehicles, big guns and aircraft.

The treaty survived the splintering of the Warsaw Pact into 14 independent states when the limits set by the CFE, and the obligation to destroy surplus armaments, was divided between them.

Last week it even seemed a solution had been found to Russia's long-standing claim, amplified by the Chechen conflict, to revise the CFE "flank limits" which drastically reduced Moscow's ability to deploy troops on its southern and north-western borders. Nato partly accepted Russia's argument that the USSR's flanks had become its frontline.

At a meeting with the US defence secretary, William Perry, last weekend, the Russian defence chief, Pavel Grachev, appeared to have agreed to an American compromise to lift the deployment restrictions in four southern regions — Krasnodar, Stavropol, Volgograd and Rostov — and to rely on the Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad as Russia's north-western bulwark.

But on Wednesday the Interfax news agency quoted a senior Russian foreign ministry official as saying that Russia wanted free deployment in a whole range of north-western regions, including St Petersburg.

Nato and European Union officials are concerned this would permit too many Russian troops in the area bordering Norway, a Nato member, and Finland, a European Union member. The Baltic states, worried by revanchist mutterings, are already clamouring to join Nato.

In the south, Washington will have a hard task convincing Turkey that Russia needs such freedom of movement for the large army it has in the conflict-ridden North Caucasus region, particularly when Moscow is consolidating its military presence in Georgia and Armenia.

Normally, the final decision would be taken by Mr Yeltsin's security council. But it was clear from comments by his chief aide, Victor Ilyushin, on Wednesday that the Russian leader is still in poor shape after his heart trouble a week ago.

"[The president's illness] allows conflicting voices to express themselves," said the Western European diplomat.

There are signs of differences between the US and other Nato members over Washington's apparent inclusion of the Rostov region in the list put to General Grachev.

Rostov was not in the list of southern regions in the compromise offered to Moscow in September, but Gen Grachev mentioned it when he returned from Washington.

"You can imagine that Turkey would feel betrayed," the diplomat said. "The Turks don't buy anything they fear doesn't correspond to their security needs, and normally it takes high-level US pressure to convince them. I'm not sure the Turks will buy this and, if they don't, it means there's no collective Nato agreement."

Other former Soviet states have been struggling with their expensive obligations to destroy huge arsenals of inherited military equipment.

Bielarus is unlikely to have finished its programme by the time the 30 treaty signatories gather to take stock in Vienna on November 16. Ukraine proudly dismantled its last surplus tank this week, but points out there are still large numbers of Black Sea Fleet armoured vehicles whose ownership is disputed between Kiev and Moscow.

US seeks trial of Serb leaders for war crimes

Martin Walker in Washington

THE arrest and trial for war crimes of the Bosnian Serb leaders, Radovan Karadzic and General Radko Mladic, became the crucial issue of the Bosnian peace talks yesterday. The United States secretary of state, Warren Christopher, warned that no Nato peacekeeping force would be deployed while the two men remained in power.

Despite the media blackout imposed on the Ohio talks, Bosnian government sources leaked to reporters that their president, Alija Izetbegovic, had begun yesterday's session by demanding that Presidents Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia commit themselves to stopping all war crimes, and to hand over Mr Karadzic and Gen Mladic to the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

But the US and Bosnians appear resigned to swallowing the long list of war crime allegations against Mr Milosevic as the price of his support for a peace agreement.

They also seemed ready to ignore another charge against President Tudjman levelled by the European Union's negotiator, Carl Bildt.

"We know that we are going to be sitting across the table from some monsters, but if that's what it takes to make peace, we'll do it," the Bosnian foreign minister, Muhamed Sacirbey, said.

This unhappy blend of principle and peacemaking pragmatism still poses President Milosevic with the dilemma of whether to hand over the two Serb leaders to international justice, as the US now demands, or to try to find them sanctuary in Serbia or elsewhere.

"We cannot really expect that the forces of Nato would be there at the same time those two individuals [Karadzic and Mladic] were in positions of power," Mr Christopher said. "We think they have no place in this endeavour in future."

The US decision to refuse all deals for the two men reflects the overwhelming evidence from US satellite photographs that a massacre of about 6,000 Bosnian Muslims from Srebrenica took place in July.

The massacre provoked Bosnian officials to say that President Milosevic was also responsible, just days before President Izetbegovic reluctantly shook his hand at the US air base in Ohio, site of the talks.

Asked about President Milosevic's responsibility for war crimes, Mr Christopher carefully ducked the question yesterday, saying only that this "is not our judgment to make", and that it would depend on the war crimes tribunal.

The tribunal has filed formal charges against Mr Karadzic and Gen Mladic, but not so far against President Milosevic. The US has said that the two men would "be arrested on sight" if they set foot in the US, so the Bosnian Serbs are being represented as minor members of President Milosevic's delegation by their deputy president, Nikola Koljevic.

The fate of the two men has preoccupied the Clinton administration for some weeks, and led to one serious row behind closed doors between Mr Christopher, who said that US peacekeepers should have orders to arrest them, and the defence secretary, William Perry, who said that they should not.

Reinforcing earlier US insistence that there could be no amnesty for them as part of a peace deal, Mr Christopher's new demand that they leave power before Nato forces deploy meets the long-standing Bosnian insistence that justice be seen to be done.

But in standing so staunchly by that demand, there was some Bosnian nervousness yesterday that the US might press them for concessions on other issues, on territorial division and constitutional procedures.

Although US diplomats have made clear that they oppose any division of the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, diplomatic sources told the Guardian yesterday that secret US military planning sessions had included preparations for checkpoints between Bosnian Serb and Bosnian-Muslim zones inside the city limits.

Ohio talks get 'backbone' plans to shape agreement

Reuter in Washington

MEDIATORS yesterday presented the factions at the Bosnian peace talks with four draft documents intended to form the backbone of a general agreement.

"They comprise the agreement that we hope will ultimately represent the general peace agreement that will be signed ... by all the parties," Nicholas Burns, a state department spokesman, told reporters.

He said the documents comprised an overall "framework agreement" and others covering elections, constitutional issues and agreements on the separation of military and paramilitary forces.

"I expect the parties will take a day or two to look very intensively at these documents ... They represent the hard choices that will have to be made at the Dayton talks in order to reach an agreement," he said.

Mr Burns also said the presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and the Bosnian-Croat federation had agreed as an initial goodwill gesture that a few hundred Bosnian and Croat refugee families would be allowed to return to their homes.

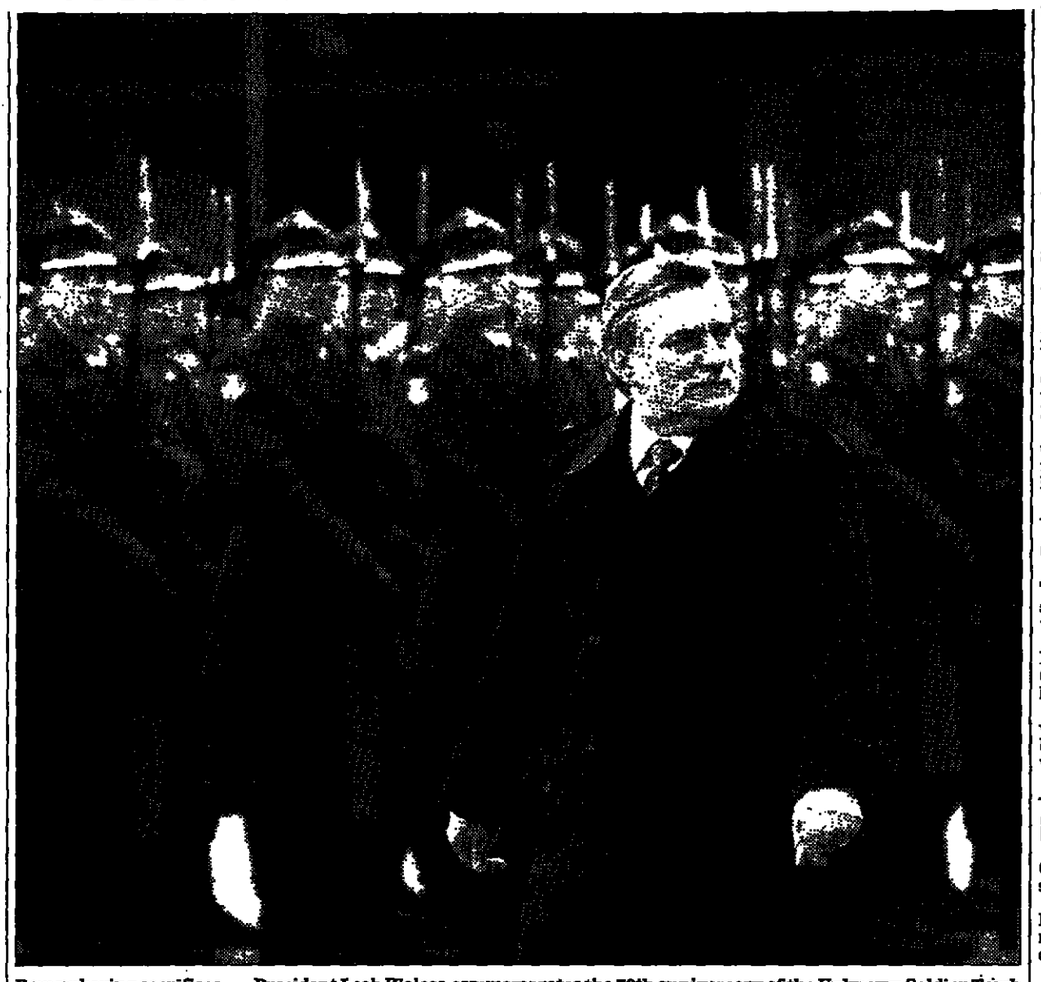
He said the US assistant secretary of state, John Shattuck, a human rights specialist, would return to Bosnia at the weekend to visit towns where the United States believed there were credible allegations of significant human rights abuses in the last three to four months.

● The UN warned yesterday that it would use force if necessary to control 800 mojahedin fighters allied with the Bosnian government, after they harassed another peacekeeper.

The unit last week stopped five British peacekeepers in central Bosnia and threatened to kill them to avenge the death of a mojahedin fighter by a British soldier.

Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vernon said a New Zealand peacekeeper, who was not identified, was held for three hours on Wednesday near the central town of Zenica.

The UN was ready, he said, to use French and British rapid-reaction troops against the Islamic unit if the Bosnian government did not exert control.



Remembering sacrifices . . . President Lech Walesa commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Unknown Soldier Tomb in Warsaw yesterday. He sees Nato membership as the only deterrent against Russian designs PHOTOGRAPH: PAWEL KOPCZYNSKI

Poles look both east and west

Matthew Brzezinski finds Warsaw at the political crossroads before the first round of the presidential poll on Sunday

STALIN commissioned the construction of seven giant government buildings in Moscow after the second world war, but altered his plan at the last minute. Only six of the wedding-cake shaped structures were built in the Soviet capital. The seventh, he decided, would be in the heart of his empire's most prized acquisition: Poland.

Today Soviet occupiers have left and Stalin's name has been removed from the dirty limestone facade of Warsaw's Palace of Culture. It contrasts with the gleaming Marriott hotel and office tower located a block west, where young Poles hold business lunches and confer on cellular phones.

Only a few hundred yards separate the two buildings. But they have come to symbolise the gulf between the two worlds at whose crossroads Poland lies — the West and the former Soviet empire. And, if history has taught Poles anything, it is that their country is a dangerous place.

"Poland cannot be left in some ill-defined grey zone between Russia and the West," warned Bronislaw Geremek, an opposition MP who heads parliament's foreign relations committee. "It creates imperialistic temptations in Moscow."

That fear has been the foundation for President Lech Walesa's overriding priority since toppling communism: to integrate with the West. For him, immediate membership of Nato and the European Union is the only viable deterrent against Kremlin designs.

On Sunday, 28 million Poles will vote in the first round of presidential elections. Two weeks later, they will select a leader expected to guide them safely out of Russia's potential grasp and into a united Europe. That leader, according to surveys, could be the reformed communist, Aleksander Kwasniewski, a prospect that worries many. "A Kwasniewski win would bring greater danger to the process of Western integration because his core constituency is not keen on it," Mr Geremek said. "There is a nostalgia for dependence on Moscow among them."

Mr Kwasniewski supports Polish membership of Nato. But privately he is less enthusiastic about the process. In 1993, before his Democratic Left Alliance won parliamentary elections and formed the government, he said Nato should be dissolved because the Warsaw Pact had collapsed.

A Kwasniewski victory would almost certainly see the sacking of outspoken supporters of integration, like the foreign minister, Wladislaw Bartoszewski. Mr Bartoszewski, who survived Auschwitz and then spent eight years in communist jails, is a widely respected Walesa-appointee. He replaced another man appointed by Mr Walesa, Andrzej Olechowski, who left office earlier this year, accusing the leftwing government of undermining the process of integration. Mr Olechowski ended his letter of resignation with a blunt question for the prime minister: "Do you really want to join Nato?"

Poland's location has historically proved fatal: "It can get windy here when opposing armies start going to and fro," Mr Geremek joked. Security guarantees therefore are an emotionally and politically charged issue.

But today geography has certain economic advantages for Poland. "We can be a bridge between the West and East," said Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, under-secretary of state responsible for European integration.

Since the removal of communist-era trade barriers, Polish business has returned to its traditional Western orientation. Now 70 per cent of foreign trade is with EU states.

Still, Poland faces considerable obstacles to membership. It is too early to tell whether a Kwasniewski victory would create additional problems. Although he has pushed for increased trade with Russia, he does appear committed to continuing economic integration with the West. But for the vast majority of Poles, security guarantees against Russia count most. And here many could find themselves disappointed if he wins.

Turkey woos Blair on customs deal

Jonathan Rugman in Ankara

THE perception abroad of Tony Blair as Britain's prime minister-in-waiting was highlighted yesterday when aides to the Turkish prime minister, Tansu Ciller, confirmed that she plans to visit the Labour leader in London this month to lobby for his support in Turkey's battle for a customs union with Europe.

Mrs Ciller is also hoping to meet Mr Major, but Turkish diplomatic sources made it clear that it was the meeting with Mr Blair that mattered.

"There has been an informal approach from the Turkish prime minister," a spokesman for Mr Blair's office confirmed last night. "We haven't yet made a decision on whether we can fit her into his diary."

Mrs Ciller believes that her future depends on a customs union between Turkey and Europe, due to be voted upon by the European Parliament in December.

But Socialist MEPs — including the powerful British contingent — are threatening to veto the trade deal or postpone the vote. Mrs Ciller now feels she must lobby Mr Blair.

Turkey's ambassador to London attended the recent Labour Party conference, and earlier this week Mrs Ciller telephoned Pauline Green MEP, leader of the Socialist group in Strasbourg, in the hope of gaining Labour's support.

Mrs Ciller's hope is that Labour's foreign policy will shift away from concern about Turkey's poor human rights record, towards recognising the economic and strategic benefits of including Turkey within the European fold. But being nice to Turkey is hardly a vote-winner for Labour, let alone a priority, and last night it was far from clear how Mr Blair would respond.

The shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, was visiting the United States, but party sources said Mr Cook wanted a withdrawal of Turkish troops from Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus before there could be progress in relations.

"We haven't had contacts with the Labour Party for a long time," a Turkish official said sadly yesterday. "We put all our eggs in the Conservative basket."

World news in brief

Mass grave found as Burundi erupts

AID workers in Burundi said yesterday that they had counted 103 fresh graves at a massacre site and that the capital, Bujumbura, was rocked overnight by gunfire and grenade blasts.

Security sources said at least four people died in the capital. State-run radio reported at least 42 killed in a refugee camp in the northern province of Kayanza on Wednesday. It also reported large numbers of casualties in Bujumbura.

Aid officials confirmed reports of a massacre in Ngozi province in the north a week ago, and said 10,000 civilians had since fled the area. Survivors blamed the army.

"Twenty-eight wounded were evacuated the same day and we counted 103 fresh graves. Two of the evacuated died of their wounds. They were all women and children with wounds from burns, bullets, bayonets and broken glass," an aid worker said.

Buyenzi suburb was surrounded yesterday morning by troops and paramilitary gendarmes after suspected Tutsi militiamen attacked a Hutu family's house with grenades and handgun fire, the security sources said. — *Reuter, Bujumbura.*

Gaza hit by suicide bombers

TWO Palestinians blew themselves up in bomb attacks on Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Eleven Israelis were wounded, none seriously.

There was no claim of responsibility, but security forces believe the blasts, near the border separating the largely self-ruled Gaza Strip from Israel, were linked to last week's assassination in Malta of the Islamic Jihad leader, Fathi Shqaqi.

Blaming Israeli agents for the death, Islamic Jihad has vowed vengeance. Yesterday's attacks came less than a day after a drive-by shooting in the occupied West Bank, in which a Jewish rabbi was seriously wounded. — *Derek Brown, Jerusalem.*

Bouchard ponders retirement

QUEBEC'S charismatic independence leader, Lucien Bouchard, says family demands may prompt his retirement from politics.

He said he will not announce his future for nearly three weeks. But his party, the separatist Bloc Québécois, will stay in parliament in Ottawa — where it is the official opposition — despite the defeat in Monday's referendum.

Mr Bouchard would have little difficulty in taking over from Jacques Parizeau, the provincial premier who announced his retirement after the defeat. But he hinted he might stay in federal politics, or return to private life and his law practice.

"I have strong personal pressure to go back to private life," he said. "It's well known that my wife is not crazy about politics ... She supports my commitment, but we had an agreement that everything would be over after the referendum."

Mr Bouchard and his Californian wife, Audrey Best, have two sons, aged four and five. — *Claire Trevena, Toronto.*

Tanzanian opposition sues

TEN Tanzanian opposition parties filed a lawsuit yesterday asking the high court to nullify the country's first multiparty election because of alleged fraud. The court indicated it would hear arguments today.

Tanzania's electoral board on Sunday suspended the elections for president and parliament amid widespread allegations of fraud, but then allowed voting to proceed in most parts of the country on Monday and Tuesday.

But all the votes in Dar es Salaam, an opposition stronghold, were nullified by the board, which scheduled a new vote for November 12.

At a joint news conference, the leaders of 10 opposition parties said they would ask the court to halt the release of any more results and to nullify the election. They said they would not participate in the new voting in Dar es Salaam.

In the latest returns released on Tuesday, the board said the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party had won 48 of the 73 seats decided so far. — *AP, Dar es Salaam.*

Filipinos flee fierce typhoon

THE fringes of a super-typhoon flattened 15,000 homes in the Philippines yesterday, hours before it even hit land, officials said.

One boy was killed as typhoon Angela brought 5ft-deep floods, forced 60,000 people to flee their homes and plunged provincial cities into darkness.

The densely populated region of Luzon and the capital Manila lay directly in the path of the typhoon, which was expected to hit by midday today, weather forecasters said. — *Reuter, Manila.*

School bus hijacker shot

A HIJACKER angry with tax collectors commandeered a school bus in Miami, Florida, yesterday with 11 disabled children and two adults aboard, taking them on a harrowing ride before police shot him fatally.

The hijacker, who worked as a waiter, told police he had a bomb. Police said later that the device strapped to the man's body was not a bomb. — *AP, Miami Beach.*

"Who needs artificial highs when life itself's a high?" is Jack's motto, or at least it might be, though at the moment it's at the discussion document stage.
Bel Littlejohn

page 9

Aid allowed for Tamil refugees

Suzanne Goldenberg in Colombo

SRI LANKA yesterday gave permission for an international relief effort for tens of thousands of Tamil refugees marooned in monsoon storms without food or shelter after fleeing a government onslaught on the northern Jaffna peninsula.

As many as 400,000 hungry and terrified people are believed to have fled the advancing government troops — meaning nearly two-thirds of the peninsula's population is on the move.

Officials and aid workers have described scenes of utter misery, with elderly men, women and children pouring out of Jaffna on foot and in bullock carts towards the east. An acute shortage of medicines, coupled with the arrival of the monsoon, means there 'is a serious threat of disease in the makeshift and overcrowded camps.

"We want to send urgent medical supplies, food and other essentials. Some people are said to be sleeping under trees," a government official said.

Britain's Save the Children, the United States agency Care, and the International Committee for the Red Cross are to be allowed to distribute plastic sheeting, food and medicine around Chavakachcheri, an area still in rebel hands.

The relief effort will be the first in territory held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since Operation Sunshine was launched on October 17. But it comes amid signs that Chavakachcheri is but a way station on a larger Tamil exodus.

Aid workers said Tiger guerrillas were hijacking fishing vessels to take the refugees from Chavakachcheri, about 10 miles from Jaffna town on the eastern edge of the peninsula, to the Killinochi area on the mainland. Killinochi also remains under Tiger control.

But in the two-week assault on the Tamil Tiger mini-state, — the most sustained and punishing onslaught on the rebels in 12 years of war — Jaffna is the ultimate prize, not so much for its military importance but as a symbol of Tamil independence.

The military claimed yesterday that nearly 1,000 Tigers had been killed and 3,000 wounded during the offensive, against its own losses of 220 dead and nearly 540 injured. The figures could not be independently confirmed, though the Tiger estimate of losses is lower.

Without Jaffna, Tiger claims to rule a de facto homeland crumble. But while government forces had punched their way to within three miles of the now largely deserted town yesterday, they did not appear to be advancing. Instead, soldiers are moving around the perimeters of Jaffna in an effort to secure roads leading to the town.

The military spokesman, Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, said the slowing down of the advance was because the bloodiest fighting is yet to come, with intense Tiger resistance expected in the built-up areas around Jaffna.

"Our advance is deliberately slow because we don't want to take unnecessary casualties," he said. "The Tiger resistance has gone down a bit but that does not mean they are pulling back. The operation is planned in such a manner that it will be a fight to the finish."

Warm welcome . . . Maori protesters shouting 'Elizabeth go home. You are not welcome on Maori land' greeted the Queen yesterday, when she made the first official engagement of her 10-day visit to New Zealand, at a Maori cultural centre at Rotorua. The Queen, who donned a chief's traditional cloak of feathers, ignored them PHOTOGRAPH: ALAN GIBSON

ANC takes lead as white votes split the right

Chris McGreal in Johannesburg

PARTIAL results from South Africa's local elections have given the African National Congress a commanding lead, flying in the face of assertions that its black support is collapsing because of the government's slowness in delivering on election promises. Instead the godfather of apartheid, the National Party, saw its support fall as white votes fragmented.

Wednesday's local elections ended segregated administrations and delivered control of many mainly white municipalities into ANC hands as they were merged with neighbouring black townships. But voting patterns confirmed that the racial divide in politics remains distinct.

With counting continuing last night, ANC support hovered around 60 per cent — almost exactly what it won in last year's elections which put President Nelson Mandela in power.

Efforts by the National Party and other largely white parties to persuade black voters that the government had let them down with its slow delivery of new homes and better services appear to have been ineffective. Generally high voter turnout, despite problems including long queues at polling stations and names missing from voters' rolls, helped endorse the ANC victory.

It came out on top in most large cities, including Johannesburg, seized control of Bloemfontein and swept aside opposition across most of the rest of the Free State, despite the region's deep conservatism. Many white votes shifted from the National Party to independents, such as ratepayers' associations, or the separatist Freedom Front. The National Party won control of only a single small council in the Free State.

But its support held up in Pretoria, where it was neck and neck with the ANC with only a handful of seats still to be declared.

A host of smaller rightwing strongholds also fell, including Ventersdorp, the home of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbewing The ANC has a one-seat majority over the pro-apartheid Conservative Party. Overall the CP's support among whites slipped.

There was also a significant swing to the ANC in the only NP-governed province, the Western Cape, where most elections were postponed because of boundary disputes.

China unites its friends and foes

Beijing's moves to restore colonial curbs on political activity has alarmed Hong Kong, writes **Andrew Higgins**

TSANG TAK-SING, a veteran foe of British colonial rule, spent two years in a Hong Kong prison for handing out pro-China tracts in the 1960s.

Still loyal to Beijing, he has a new task. He curses the ending of colonial laws that once helped put him and many others in jail.

As chief editor of the pro-China newspaper, Ta Kung Pao, Mr Tsang must now explain why Beijing wants to reverse key clauses of a 1991 Bill of Rights and revive harsh restrictions.

His brother, Tsang Yok-sing, leader of the main pro-Beijing party, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong said: "I take exception to this. We should decide such matters for ourselves.

"It will not help to boost confidence in Hong Kong if the National People's Congress [in Beijing] starts taking all decisions for us."

The issue has also clouded Sino-British relations, complicating the work of the joint liaison group set up to smooth Hong Kong's transition to Chinese rule. The liaison group ended its latest meeting in Beijing yesterday with China threatening to overturn the Bill of Rights and Britain urging it not to.

The changes were first put forward two weeks ago by the preliminary working committee, a Beijing-appointed body of mainlanders and Hong Kong residents, many of them former pillars of the colonial establishment who switched sides. Despite a storm of protest in Hong Kong from across the political spectrum, Senior Chinese officials have since endorsed proposals that will strip the Bill of Rights of its power to override other legislation.

Six Hong Kong laws amended since 1991 so as to conform with the Bill of Rights are to be returned to their original form. This will mean reinstating a ban on groups that have not been formally registered, a revival of the governor's power to block television and radio programmes, the removal of restrictions on the use of "emergency powers" and the return of police powers to curb public meetings.

Martin Lee, whose Democratic Party won September's legislative elections, condemns China's plan as a threat to civil liberties after 1997. "They give draconian powers back to the government. The British did not exercise them, but we can't trust Beijing not to take advantage of them."

What alarms Hong Kong most is the manner in which such an important issue has been decided. The 1984 Joint Declaration between Britain and China enshrines the principle of "one country, two systems" and promises Hong Kong autonomy in everything except defence and foreign affairs.

Chinese attempts to calm Hong Kong's unease have increased concern about Beijing's intentions. A visit by three Beijing legal experts to explain China's position backfired. At a meeting on Monday with handpicked advisers, they gave a two-hour lecture in Mandarin, a language Hong Kong's mainly Cantonese population barely understands, and refused to take questions.

"They came not to listen but to instruct," said Selina Chow, a member of a pro-business Liberal Party often sympathetic to Beijing. "China is ignoring not only those it considers subversive but those it considers allies. It is very disappointing."

The controversy has united Hong Kong legislators and exposed deep cracks in the pro-China camp. "In a peculiarly perverse way this could be a positive development," said Raymond Wacks, a law lecturer at Hong Kong University. "It has alerted people to a serious problem. It has concentrated everyone's minds on the issue of Hong Kong's most basic rights."

Have sparklers every night.

The natural way to keep your teeth clean.

Even better mortgage deals due to our new lower standard variable rate

Margaret was a home owner...a typical home owner. She'd been thinking of moving when she heard about the incredibly good deals on Nationwide's new standard variable rate of 7.95% APR 8.3% (variable) with 1, 2 or 3 year discount options. "Oh my!" Margaret exclaimed... "I can knock over 60% off my monthly payment. I'm so happy I could cry." And so she did. So what was Margaret's advice? If you are thinking of moving or buying your first home, and would like a rate of 2.65% in the first year, £300 cashback and a free valuation, don't be crazy – just pop into your local Nationwide branch, or call free on 0800 30 20 10 quoting ref. PV 24.

Minimum Deposit	1 year Discounts	2 year Discounts	3 year Discounts
25%	5·30%	2·80%	2·00%
15%	4·80%	2·70%	1·85%
5%	4·30%	2·55%	1·75%

Nationwide
THE 'BUILDING' SOCIETY.

Find us on the Internet at http://www.nationwide.co.uk/nationwide

2·7% APR (variable)

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

The **Guardian**
Friday November 3 1995
Edition Number 46,389
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Fax No. 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk

Whose family values?

Ministers have caved in to the new moralists

VICTIMS of family violence were abandoned yesterday. A bill which had the backing of the main political parties and support of hundreds of agencies supporting battered women and abused children, was abruptly dropped in the face of a revolt by small-minded and ill-informed right-wing fundamentalists who have hijacked the Tory party. To describe this ministerial cave-in as pusillanimous, would be to insult the word. Rarely can ministers have demonstrated such a pathetic collective cringe. Far from reintroducing the Family Home and Domestic Violence Bill in the next session, ministers seem to be standing by to repeat their act of humiliation by abandoning the Divorce Reform Bill, which was due to be enacted after 10 years of consultation with family welfare, church and legal groups.

Our reporters set out in yesterday's Guardian the insidious way in which the Domestic Violence Bill was undermined by the Daily Mail, which launched a campaign against the measure on the false claim that it was providing unprecedented new property rights to live-in lovers. In fact the Bill gave cohabitees no new property rights but simply re-enacted, with improved court procedures, rights which have existed since 1976. One of the protections which the Bill was designed to provide was to enable courts to remove a child abuser, or a suspected child abuser, for a limited period from a home to avoid the child being taken into care. Does the "Party of the Family" really want to sabotage this important protection? The Bill would also have allowed victims of domestic violence to get injunctions with the power of arrest attached. The principles were endorsed by the all party Select Committee on Home Affairs in its report on domestic violence. It was regarded as so non contentious that ministers had given it a special fast track procedure. Absurdly, one of the Conservative members of the select committee which backed the Bill, is now a virulent opponent.

The Bill is regarded by the moral minority as a serious threat to family values. Forget the vulnerable children involved, if their parents are unmarried then they must suffer for the sins of their father. Intent on proving the reverse of Aldous Huxley's famous dictum ("the quality of moral behaviour varies in inverse ratio to the number of human beings"), the new moralists persist in their belief that legislation can produce correct behaviour. Roger Gale, who as a former pirate radio DJ knows all about respect for the law, has been one of the key Conservative MPs campaigning against the Bill for its undermining of family values. He has been divorced once, and married three times. Absurdly, he talked yesterday of being "100,000 per cent behind the Prime Minister and everything he stands for." It is difficult to know quite what the Prime Minister stands for in the current flux of flip flops.

The Tory party is a family in feud. Family therapists would be the first to explain that the road to resolution does not run in permanently appeasing the most stroppy members. Victory only makes them more stroppy and more unreasonable. They will not be appeased. They are not going to listen to reason.

There are two approaches to law: normative or behavioural. The normative approach leads from the front in setting down norms; the behavioural looks at what people are doing and searches for practical ways of adjusting it. The first always ends in disaster. It brings the law into hopeless disrepute. For all his personal moral integrity, the Lord Chancellor sensible opts for the behavioural approach.

The past is not a private matter

How does South Africa balance justice against reconciliation?

SOUTH AFRICA'S PAST is still an inextricable part of the present. In Durban yesterday former Defence Minister Magnus Malan appeared in court in connection with a vicious hit-squad operation eight years ago which caused the death of 13 black civilians including five small children. The case only scratches at the tip of a mountain of lethal extra-judicial actions outside as well as inside South Africa. Here in Britain a more remote shred from the violent past has been exposed through the controversy over John Lloyd, the prospective Labour candidate for Exeter whose evidence, it is claimed, helped send one of his friends to the gallows after an anti-apartheid bombing more than 30 years ago. The two cases are not remotely in the same order of magnitude. The charges against Mr Malan and his fellow-defendants raise the vast issue of a powerful illegal conspiracy at the heart of the then South African government which caused the deaths of tens of thousands and perpetuated a uniquely oppressive political system. John Harris, the man who was hanged 30 years ago, and Mr Lloyd belonged to a tiny idealistic group of conspirators which challenged that massive weight for a short while. Yet in both cases questions are being asked about how to balance equity against reconciliation — difficult questions which still need to be faced.

Mr Lloyd believes that he is the victim of a campaign motivated by malice. However, as a possible future member of parliament, his past cannot be a private matter. Many of the facts remain in dispute between Mr Lloyd and his critics. His subsequent refusal, when on safe territory in England, to recant forced testimony is a worrying matter. The Labour party in Exeter may still be satisfied with him as a candidate — or it may choose to think again on the basis of all the evidence. Whatever the result, this is a sad story of human courage and frailty without final answers.

The case of Mr Malan and his fellow-accused raises a very different issue. The case is neither obscure nor morally ambiguous: either they are innocent of a very serious crime or they are guilty as charged. The only objection is a political one. It is claimed that their presence in the dock will undermine multi-racial harmony in the new South Africa and should be governed by the amnesty provisions which will soon become available through the new Truth and Reconciliation Commission. But this argument is flawed. Even if the Commission were already functioning, Mr Malan could only have resort to it by acknowledging his guilt. Yet he proclaims himself to be a peaceable family man and vigorously protests his innocence: where then are the grounds for waiving proceedings? Quite rightly, amnesty is only available to those who are willing to shed light upon the horrors of the past. Either Mr Malan has nothing to fear or he should tell South Africa all the dark secrets he knows.

Democracy is costing too much

Parliamentary proceedings ought to be free on the Internet

MERCIFULLY, the cost of discovering what our legislators are up to is falling. Soon the cost of the House of Lords Hansard will drop from £4.20 to a mere £2.50. The cost of the weekly Commons version is already down from a vicious £22 to £12. It surely can't be long before they start selling the daily version for something more affordable than today's crushing £7.50.

But that is only a start. In this age of the information explosion, there ought to be easy access to parliamentary proceedings where we nowadays look for so much else: on computer screens, over the Internet. MPs have lately opened up their own data and video network, but for parliamentary eyes alone. The House of Commons Commission has yet to have detailed discussions on using the Internet, though the Information Committee is considering it, as are House of Commons officials. If you're rich, none of this is a problem. Hansard is available on CD-ROM for a mere £2,000 per session. You can dial into parliamentary statutes on a service called Lexis for £270 an hour. But that's little use to millions of others with no less of a democratic right to know what Westminster is doing or planning to do.

Part of the problem is Crown and Parliamentary copyright. Provide the services free, or at cost price even, and you'd run up additional bills at a time when public spending is tight, while knocking a hole in the income of HMSO: an especially delicate consideration now the Government wants to privatise it. But the delay also reflects a characteristic Westminster slowness to acknowledge accountability to the people who put you there and fund your activities. In the United States, Canada and Australia, the people's right to free dissemination of such public information is taken for granted. Why should Britain be different?

Letters to the Editor

Why MPs should pay and display

THE Tories claim that full disclosure under the Nolan report would deter the finest minds from entering politics (Tories rebel on sleaze, November 2). Where's the evidence for this extravagant claim? Surely they cannot be saying that the MPs who are so fearful of disclosing the extent of their outside income are the finest minds in the country?

Let's consider an assembly in which every single MP has signed the following declaration: "I am a politician. My well-paid job is to serve the people of the constituency who elected me. It is a full-time job. I have no business hobnobbing with any vested interest, outside those of my constituent voters with whom I will consult via my regular surgery." And if they don't like it, then good riddance to them.
Anthony Purcell.
18 Bouverie Road,
Chelmsford,
Essex CM2 0UG.

I WOULD like to offer a modest proposal. For every £2 they earn from outside activities, MPs return £1 of their parliamentary salary. Tory MPs are, we now know, eager to serve the public over the broadest possible spectrum. They would not, though, wish to draw a full-time salary for part-time work, nor would they wish to use their parliamentary salaries, generously funded by taxpayers, as mere pin-money. Would they?
(Prof) David Eastwood.
Department of History,
University of Wales, Swansea.

SO THE Select Committee says we can be told who is on what gravy train, but not how much they're paid for the privilege. In all sectors, employees are bound by exclusivity clauses where they have to obtain their employer's permission for any paid outside work, so why not inside the House? And when Members are paid for outside work, shouldn't their parliamentary wages be docked by the same amount? Otherwise, aren't their ethics just the same as those of anyone claiming benefit while working for the black economy?
David Fine.
4 Pickford Villas,
Monyash Road,
Bakewell,
Derbyshire DE45 1FG.

ONLY a few months ago the Conservative Government was passing laws refusing suspects the "right to silence". What have they got to hide?", they told the public.

Only last month, at their conference, they were telling us of the benefits of ID cards for all. "People with nothing to hide have nothing to fear", they bellowed from the rostrum. I think the public now has the right to ask of them, regarding their own earnings: "What have you got to hide?"
Rob Bygrave.
The Paddock,
Priestlands Lane,
Sherborne,
Dorset DT9 4EY.

BY their rejection of the Nolan report, Tory MPs are clearly indicating that representing the populace is only a part-time occupation.

We should therefore treat them as part-time workers; pay them low wages, abolish holiday, pension or insurance rights, but expect them to work any hours, including Sundays, required by the management. They would then enjoy the privileges of thousands of the despised populace in the "flexible economy" they have created.
Lynda Farrington.
77 New Road,
Chiseldon,
Swindon SN4 0PE.

SEEING the empty benches in the House of Commons, we may be tempted to ask how often MPs play truant to engage in some more interesting or profitable activity. I wonder how many Tory MPs would allow their staff to pursue other interests when they were meant to be at work?
Paul Hayward.
Rowan House,
Viewlands,
Silkstone Common,
Barnsley S75 4QP.

IF I did not know that all Tory MPs were 100 per cent honest, I should have to conclude that the only *logical* reason for their unwillingness to disclose their supplementary incomes was that they had been economical with the actualité on their income-tax declarations.
Martin Shore.
29 Clinton Road,
Leatherhead,
Surrey KT22 8NU.

Cracking the egg shortage

ONE thing that no one is considering in the furore over the selling of human eggs is how this situation could have been avoided (Warnock calls for 'human hens' ban, November 2). The desperate shortage of eggs for treatment has compelled patient groups, clinicians and ethicists alike to devise new strategies for increasing the supply of donors.

Whether or not one approves of the actions of the Hope Agency, it is understandable that patients stuck on lengthy waiting lists will resort to desperate measures. Research being conducted in Britain is aimed at developing new methods for increasing the supply of human eggs for treatment and thus avoiding the situation in which hundreds of patients currently find themselves.

This research involves using donated ovarian tissue as a source of immature eggs that can be developed outside the body. Scientists are already able to mature adult eggs through the final stages (36 hours) of development, an advance which is important for patients who do not have their own eggs. However, much more research is required to make this technique more efficient, to extend it to younger eggs, and to develop methods for cryopreserving (freezing) eggs so that an egg bank can be established.

It will be some time before we can avoid being reliant on the altruistic women (whether paid or not) who go through painful and time-consuming operations to donate their eggs for the treatment of others. But if society does not invest in the future by recognising the importance of basic research, patients will continue to find themselves in the desperate circumstances where they have no alternative but to pay for donated eggs.
(Dr) John Carroll.
Progress Educational Trust,
16 Mortimer Street,
London W1N 7RD.

I HAVE heard it said that egg donors were in danger of emotional stress caused by the knowledge that they might have biological offspring that they will never know about. I am not aware of any similar fuss being made over men's donation of sperm in a plastic cup for around £15.
H T McGrath.
Blenheim Gardens,
Reading,
Berks RG1 5QG.

Polls and goals

THE issues your diplomatic editor refers to (Brothers find Egyptian poll door barred, November 2) are considered a part of the democratic process which Egypt applies with the practice of a multi-party system. Of course, it would be far easier to resort to a totalitarian system; but, because Egypt adopts freedom of expression, all voices can be heard, whatever their beliefs. Sometimes these voices exceed the legitimate limits of democracy by trying to impose their ideas on others, even to the point of force. When this happens it is the role of any government to protect its citizens' interests.

Egypt is recovering from a succession of wars and, though its population is increasing by 1 million children every 10 months, it is doing everything it can to restore economic stability.
Ahmed Al-Ibrashy.
Press Counsellor,
Egyptian Embassy.
2 Harewood Place,
London W1R 9HB.

YOUR article on the redundancy of one of NatWest's personal financial advisers, Mickey Thakur (Culling of the clerks, October 14), gives the impression of a cavalier attitude to a member of staff in a very difficult situation. This is far from the truth. Wherever there is a need to reduce jobs, full consultation takes place with the unions. We seek to place staff within the NatWest Group, or to agree voluntary terms with them. Compulsory redundancy is only used when all other avenues have been exhausted. Counselling and careers support is given.
Paul Lockstone.
Head of Public Relations,
National Westminster Bank,
12 Throgmorton Street,
London EC2N 2DL.

I WAS pleased to see (Sports Results, November 2) that Sheffield Wednesday Reserves defeated Manchester United Reserves 5-3 in the First Division of the Pontins League, and Ivanchuk and Kramnik were tied for first place in the Credit Suisse Chess Championship in Zurich. May I tell your readers that England drew 1-1 with Italy in the UEFA Women's Championship at Roker Park?
Graham Kelly.
Chief Executive,
The Football Association,
16 Lancaster Gate,
London W2 3LW.

Right on cue, the nitpickers

YOUR correspondent Christopher Lambton mourns the lack of Pride and Prejudice nit-pickers (Letters, November 2). Well, aside from an ending Jane would not have recognised, her Byronic hero and the Elizabeth Arden look: the perchless carriages; pocketed billiard table; coarse fishing; candles which, when extinguished, leave electric lights on: the parlour at Rosings, created at Betton House in c1870 . . .
R J Westwood.
13 Aldonley,
Almondbury,
Huddersfield.

CLEARLY Mr Lambton's enjoyment of the delicately staged scene when Elizabeth accepts proud Darcy's suit was not ruined by the sight of a crop of forage maize ready for harvesting. Apparently one of the Longbourne yeomanry was 150 years ahead of his time. As the camera panned, the clear tracks of pneumatic tyres on the stubble were visible — anticipating Dunlop by about 80 years.
(Dr) Toby Mottram.
Madgeon Lane Farm,
Buckland St Mary,
Chard, Somerset TA20 3QF.

THE production crew never put a foot wrong, apart from the fact that the date/timer on Darcy's Swatch clearly showed "Tuesday" at the wedding . . .
Peter Hardwick.
2 Old Lansdowne Road,
Didsbury,
Manchester M20 2NU.

Heart conditions

YOU state (Electric heart opens up future, October 30) that Abel Goodman was "... refused a transplant on the NHS because of his age". In fact, people over 60 *are* considered for heart transplants within the NHS. Indeed, the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle has transplanted a patient of 64 years.

Each patient is assessed on his or her overall state of health. If an older patient is also suffering, for example, from kidney dysfunction, this would have serious implications for the patient's ability to cope after the operation and potentially impair recovery.

There is no nationally set age limit for transplants and most definitely no age limit for organ donation.
Fiona Gravette.
Director, National Transplant Information Service,
PO Box 326,
Richmond, Surrey TW9 1FY.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters for clarity and concision. We regret we cannot acknowledge those we do not use.

Ken Saro-Wiwa: you are not alone

THE death sentence on Ken Saro-Wiwa and other prisoners of conscience is just the latest example of the current crisis in Nigerian human-rights abuse — the worst for 30 years. Strange, then, that Nigeria is reportedly considered a "safe country" under the British Government's proposed refugee "white list". Should Ken Saro-Wiwa have sought political asylum in the UK under such conditions, there would have been a presumption that his case was unfounded, as he is from the "safe" country of Nigeria.

Ken Saro-Wiwa waits on death row for the decision of the Provisional Ruling Council on whether to spare his life. Public action can make a difference.
David Bull.
Director, Amnesty International UK,
99-110 Rosebery Avenue,
London EC1R 4RE.

IN 1964 I was arrested in Lagos on a charge that alleged I was "trying to overthrow the Nigerian government by military means", but in reality for being a white supporter of the Nigerian workers who were waging a successful general strike.

My trial was, like Saro-Wiwa's, a charade with fictional characters and paid witnesses giving evidence against me. There was a newly elected Labour government in Britain containing many people who had been my friends. But they did nothing to support me in case it interfered with the profitable trade relations Britain had with corrupt Nigerian politicians.
Vic Allen.
Hainsworth House,
Damems Lane,
Keighley BD22 7AR.

IT WOULD be a disservice to the people of Nigeria if the Commonwealth leaders meeting in New Zealand fail to suspend Nigeria. The Nigerian armed forces must be told in plain language that they can no longer have the support of the democratic world.
Imoro Abdulai Alhassan.
104 Wynford Road,
London N1 9SW.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Time was when we rode on our horses across Lordenshaws moor in the Simonside hills above Rothbury. Now with stick in hand and dogs at heel, we walk it, keeping to the designated tracks. At the spur of a hill on the junction of four ancient trods on this moor is the site of a prehistoric camp with symbols on rocks indicating that the fort was once a cult centre. Five years ago, Lordenshaws was a 2,000-acre heathery tract hosting much vermin infiltrating from the adjoining 5,000 acres of forestry. There were virtually no grouse at all. Foxes, corbies and magpies were numerous, and with the abundance of grazing sheep, we noticed how some heathery tracts were giving way to white grass. Then a gamekeeper was appointed, sheep numbers were reviewed and subsequently curtailed and cattle removed from the hill. Measures were taken to rationalise public access. With the help of the National Park authorities, one tenant farmer has fenced off three conservation areas in selected places along the denes to encourage wildlife and to allow native woodland to regenerate. Four ponds have been dug. Five hundred acres of that pernicious moor plague, bracken, has been sprayed. Last week, we saw several coveys of grouse, curlew, plover, wild pheasants, even a merlin. Still no blackgame which used to be such a feature of our moors and forests here but their decline is universal and the problem is being addressed by landowners and the Forestry Commission. In designated areas, forest edges are being fenced to encourage natural regeneration of Scots pine and birch. Thirty years ago, with my father on Garleigh moor adjoining Lordenshaws one winter day, we watched a pack of 11 grey hen. Now, it is years since I have seen one. It is splendid news that the Lordenshaws Restoration Project is one of 10 projects shortlisted for the prestigious 1995 Laurent Perrier Champagne Award for Wild Game Conservation.

VERONICA HEATH

Diary

Matthew Norman

THE joy of my unpompous friend Dr Julian Lewis at his destruction of Scallywag is soon to end. The good doctor, who hunts the airwaves for BBC anti-Tory bias at Central Office, credits himself with closing the magazine after it libelled him. However, according to Scallywag's solicitor, David Price, new funding has been found and the mag will be back on sale within weeks. Meanwhile, in a cute twist, Scallywag has threatened legal proceedings against Dr Lewis, to retrieve from him confidential documents left behind at a vacated office in north London. Dr Lewis, who showed a letter written by Mr Price to the Times, insists he came by the papers entirely properly. Unless he returns them within a fortnight, a writ will be issued. As for the magazine, this will be published by a company registered as Scallywag (Dr Julian Lewis) Ltd. Dr Lewis, a keen self-ironist without a drop of self-importance, will thoroughly enjoy the joke.

MEANWHILE, Dr Lewis is to welcome a new colleague. Times journalist Sheila Gunn will soon be announced as the Head of News at Conservative Central Office. Given that her direct opponent will be Alastair "Bob's Boy" Campbell, Miss Gunn must work on her ability to anticipate breaking news stories: she was as surprised as anyone else by revelations that her gentleman caller of several years, the Transport Minister Shagger Norris, had not been entirely faithful.

KEEN to plug a forthcoming sitcom, Holly Morris from the Mark Borkowski PR firm sent press releases to 90 journalists last week. Each had a lottery ticket attached (the central character Pork Pie wins the jackpot). Unwittingly, the gimmick has emerged as an important piece of fieldwork on the efficacy of the press release: one ticket, with five winning numbers, was worth £796, but no one reports winning a penny. "I guess they did what people always do with press releases," says Miss Morris, "and chucked them in the bin without a glance."

THE Diary never throws its press releases in the bin, but instead reads them avidly. One has arrived from Anne Moloney of the Chatham and Aylesford Conservative Association, It concerns a recent council byelection and is headlined: "Conservatives celebrate election success." It quotes Richard Knox Johnston (the local parliamentary candidate), who says: "I am delighted that we have turned the corner. Labour must be devastated . . ." Sir Ivan Lawrence, the Tory's champion sophist, could not have put it better: Labour had held the seat with almost four times as many votes as the Tories.

LABOUR MEP David Hallam asked the Diary's loyal army of readers for help. A colleague who lost her passport was told by a customs offical that she would be allowed to re-enter Britain "so long as you look British", and Mr Hallam would like a definition. Graeme Ewens writes from west London with one idea. As he prepared to show his passport to British immigration officers on a Eurostar train from Brussels last month, he was told not to bother. "It's all right," said the officer. "I can tell you're British." Mr Ewens thinks he looked British because he was drinking foreign "export" lager straight from the can, Further definitions are requested. Mr Hallam offers wine from his personal vineyard to the best.

EVER since the actor Rufus Sewell rejected Madonna's advances, my friend Andrew Neil has been in a terrible state. Andrew tells readers of his Daily Mail column that he believes himself to be the next target, and feels forced to screen incoming calls. First Antonio Banderas, then Hugh Grant, now Rufus Sewell . . . when you think about it, Andrew has every reason to be concerned.

Politics that never makes the ratings

Commentary

Peter Preston

WAKE UP Citizen Kane, your kettle's finally boiling. The new editor of the Daily Telegraph used to be the editor of the Sunday Telegraph. John Major (apparently) reels. The new editor of the Sunday Telegraph used to be the editor of the Spectator. Major reels again. The old editor of the Daily Express departs. Collapse of enfeebled Major.

I can't remember a time — ever — when the ancient game of shuffling the chairs on sundry editorial decks has come loaded with such supposed political portent. Can Dacre at the Mail cow our Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor into divorce retreat? Will Charles Moore at the Telegraph make Portillo the next Tory leader? Has Martin Linton's painstaking research demonstrated that Kelvin's Sun lost Labour the last election? And what instructions will Rupert bark over the telephone next time?

We're invited to believe (and maybe Mr Blair and Mr Major *do* believe) that newspapers, their editors, their proprietors, have assumed the most pivotal of roles. When they move, the earth shakes. Rich linament for journalistic egos. But hang about a bit — and then pick up the latest standard issue Barb ratings.

The Broadcasters' Audience Research Board measures the most popular 30 TV shows on channels great and small. That, between the BBC, ITV and Channel 4, gives us 120 programmes to ponder last week. Not one of them is concerned with domestic politics. No Question Time. No tumultuous stuff from Westminster. No Newsnight. No Panorama. No Sunday roastings of Secretaries of State.

You could wrap all that stuff up together and still not see it push Noel's House Party out of BBC1 tenth place. The added twist is an almost complete absence of news of any sort. The BBC gets two newscasts into the bottom half of its top 30: Saturday mid-evening and Sunday at six — the short weekend wraps of this and that, without any manifest mission to explain. And the great days of News at Ten hegemony are gone. Only Tuesday makes ITV charts — at number 30. BBC2 has neither news nor politics on its viewers' agendas. Even through the rush of weekday mornings, Anthea on her GMTV sofa and the Big Breakfast blondes push the BBC into third place.

Bizarre dislocation. On television, apparently, politics is a prime audience repellent for all but the fevered few. When mass audiences see a minister coming, they channel-surf into the distance. The advent of a news bulletin on which a politician might appear sets millions of coffee pots brewing. But politics in print — the damnation of Dacre, the moralising of Moore — is a compulsive maker or breaker of governments. It is not like that: and less like it with every passing year. Politics on the page pulls more feebly too, as any newspaper's research team will attest. People who live or write for politics remain fascinated, beginning the day with a stiff dose of Radio 4's Today, breakfasting with Frost, matching different media across their waking hours, seeing how a print leak of some Major embarrassment echoes through the air waves.

They are the engaged ones. But they are also (as Will Hutton might say) part of our 10:90 society — the shrivelled 10 per cent who think the political process can somehow change their lives or other peoples' lives.

This doesn't mean that newspapers lack influence. A leader in the Sunday Telegraph which Speaks for Britain (against the evil Euro-marauders) may embolden 20 dazed and confused backbenchers to stage one of their little demos. A Dacroid dose of divorce may wobble a few constituency chairmen who in turn wobble a few flailing MPs.

But keep grasping for reality here. The real world is not going to re-elect John Major because Clare Short talked about pot to Sir David Frost on a show watched most devotedly by duty political correspondents. The real world was still sleeping.

Influence can operate around the narrow band of introversion that rings Westminster, the beltway of paranoia and hysteria. Power is something quite different. Readers — in the broad — don't choose their papers for politics alone, or even at all. They increasingly surf around newsagents' counters.

A cliché pic of Hurley or Di may do more for sales on a day than the entire Michael Howard siren songbook. A dyslexic crossword-setter can do more damage than the entire Labour front bench.

Such things are hidden from polite society. Television, in its regulated way, hides them by keeping the framework of political coverage *as though* millions hung on every phrase, maintaining the illusion Barb destroys. But there is more impotence than power here.

If the Sun counts at polling time it is, I think, because millions who haven't until then had any interest develop an ephemeral concern — not because the levers of Kane can be mechanically pulled.

The other day, by chance, I attended a Madrid seminar where the two great Spanish editors of the post-Franco era went for each other in a political debate visceral enough to turn Dennis Skinner to cold porridge. Why?, I asked another editor afterwards. He talked immediately of long-departed dictatorship and the shadow of what might yet return if democracy itself sank in sleaze and apathy. They fought on stage because they expected something better.

We would not, in complacent inertia, say that here. But you can't contemplate next week's Nolan crunch without a sinking feeling. Shuffling the deckchairs of Fleet Street shouldn't matter. If it does, we're all in trouble.

Clare gave me such a spliffing headache

Bel Littlejohn

PLEASE, please, *please* don't get me wrong. I've got one helluva lot of respect for Clare Short, and vice versa.

Okay, so the press might have had a field day making a mountain out of a molehill two years ago when I described her in a private memo as "that Brummie loudmouth". But I took pains to explain to Clare that this memo was intended purely as a discussion document, and was not to be seen as in any way conclusive. And Clare — lovely, lovely Clare — completely accepted my explanation, even inviting me to her birthday party later that year in the public bar of The Bull Terrier in Kilburn. Okay, so when I arrived that evening in Kilburn, the bouncer informed me that it was their Senior Citizens Cribbage Night, and I later discovered that Clare had held her party in Tony Blair's private room in the House of Commons. But I fully accept Clare's frank explanation that my being given the wrong address was due to an administrative error, and we've been best buddies ever since.

So that's cleared that up, then. Now let's hear no more from the gutter press about so-called "animosity" between the two of us, okay? Thanks, guys. And now please may I be allowed to get on with the job for which I am employed by this newspaper, ie the task of tackling the serious issues of the day?

MUCH as I admire Clare Short, I wish she would pause for just one moment to consider the political reverberations of what she says before opening that great big mouth of hers. Does she not know the way the Gentlemen of the Press ("Gentlemen?" Now *that's* a laugh!) will take every opportunity to pervert her message? So why on earth does she spend the whole Frost programme calling for the legalisation of cannabis? Surely you knew, Clare my love, that your message would end up grossly distorted?

Let me make one thing clear. It is not, nor has it been, nor will it be, nor will it ever have been, nor will it not ever have never not been, official New Labour policy to legalise cannabis. I happen to know that our Shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has never held a torch for cannabis. "Who needs artificial highs when life itself's a high?" is Jack's motto, or at least it might be, though at the moment it's at the discussion-document stage.

As is well known, Jack and I were both active figures in the National Union of Students in the 1960s, Jack as President, me as Treasurer and Gigs Secretary. During all our time together, I never once saw Jack stoned. Okay, so he spent a lot of his time in the President's office listening to old Blodwyn Pig albums dressed up as a robin, flapping his arms about and twittering "I'm flying! I'm flying!" But I wholly accept his explanation that he was simply a dedicated ornithologist doing everything he could to combat the flight of robin redbreasts from these islands.

It is said that Jim Callaghan made it a strict rule never to drop acid before weekday Cabinet meetings, and Tony B is determined to follow his example. To this end, he has instituted a process of random drug tests on all members of the Shadow Cabinet, with Robin Cook in charge. So far, these tests have gone well, though I'll admit that John Prescott got a bit shirty when Cookie got his stethoscope and subjected him to an all-over body-search. Nothing toxic was found, though John was delighted when Robin discovered two stray bookmakers' slips from 1991.

So we're all as clean as new needles, but this still leaves the question of how to deal with Clare. We in New Labour are, of course, very keen to attract more people who aren't afraid to speak out on all the major issues. But Clare must learn that being outspoken isn't the right way to go about it. Basically, she's got to learn to cool it, just like Neil and Roy did in the 1980s, because it's the only way to victory. So this week, New Labour held our first seminar on media presentation, conducted by Alastair Campbell, the Rev Mandelson and myself in strict studio conditions.

Clare was desperate to learn from past mistakes. "Clare," I asked her when the dummy-cameras began to whirr, "what's your position on poor people?"

"Well, Bel, I want them to be better off," she replied.

"CUT!" I yelled. Deep breath. "Your first mistake, Clare, love," I said, sympathetically, "You didn't okay that position with Walworth Road, now, did you? It could cost us a lot of votes, come election time. I mean, we don't want to ostracise the middle-incomes, do we, Clare?"

Between us, we worked out a far better response, which Clare has agreed to learn off by heart for a re-test next Tuesday: "Poor people are still very much at the discussion-document stage, David, but I can tell you this. As a party, we're determined to keep them off all drugs, whether they like it or not."

Well done, Clare! Together, we will prove that New Labour is not to be sniffed at.

A second opinion

A cancer institute has warned of unnecessary male prostate surgery. How is the individual to cope with conflicting advice? **Malcolm Dean** tells his story

TWO MONTHS ago I was told by a senior hospital consultant I might have cancer of the prostate. There was no tumour. A biopsy had not found any definite signs of carcinoma but, in his words to a non-scientist, the samples were a bit "iffy" and there could be early microscopic cancer lurking there. His advice was blunt: I should not sit on it. A radical prostatectomy would allow the hospital lab people to look at parts that the quadrant biopsy was not able to reach. I was put on an urgent operation list and told most of my prostate would be removed within eight weeks.

I have no complaint against my GP or the hospital consultant. My GP is a committed inner-city non-fundholder, who even uses the Internet to keep up with medical developments. The hospital carried out extensive tests — blood, urine, biopsy, internal and external ultrasound examinations of my kidneys, bladder and prostate — before the consultant came to his conclusion. He answered my many questions at our two meetings. He was courteous, charming and frank.

My complaint is against the powerlessness of patients who wish to be involved in the decision-making process. I have covered the politics of health as a journalist for 25 years, but remain abysmally ignorant of medical biology. My GP and consultant patiently answered all my questions, but I lamentably fell short of asking all the relevant questions. It was only by adopting a journalistic approach to my condition — calling up a succession of contacts and colleagues at the Royal College of Surgeons, the Lancet, the Guardian, the College of Health, the Audit Commission, plus journalist files — that I gathered sufficient information to make a decision with which I felt comfortable.

This article is prompted by colleagues and contacts I consulted, most of whom want patients to have more say in medical decisions, but recognise the struggle required under current procedures. It follows this week's report by our medical correspondent from the Federation of European Cancer Societies in Paris, where a British consultant warned that thousands of men could soon be asking for a needless and dangerous prostate operation based on unreliable and uncertain tests.

I learned from my GP and consultant of the risks of not having an operation: the possibility of urinary infection, back pressure on the kidney, stones, as well as the benefits of having better cancer lab tests. But there was little guidance on the risk of having the operation. I had heard of an impotence risk (dismissed as low and psychological by the consultant) and my GP warned me there could be a greater chance of incontinence, but I had no means of measuring the countervailing risks. That required a reporter's notebook. Even then, different sources provided different statistics.

About 10 per cent of all malignant cancers diagnosed in the UK each year are prostate cancer — only lung cancer has a higher death rate for men. Almost 10,000 deaths a year are attributed to prostate cancer — five times the female cervix rate. But the picture is confusing because many more men die *with* cancer of the prostate than die *from* it. The proportions vary. The Health Education Authority, in an excellent pack published last month, suggests one third of men over 50 have some degree of prostate cancer, but only one per cent die from it.

The Royal College of Surgeons, which has pioneered medical audit, has just completed a study of 5,500 prostate cases. One crude and uncomfortable message which emerges is that if you have it and live long enough it will kill you, but you usually do not live long enough. A report from the Office of Health Economics last month quotes a study showing 70 per cent of men over 80 have cancer of the prostate but only 0.5 per cent die from it. Nobody knows how quickly the cancer will develop or who will develop an aggressive version.

SOME studies suggest that if the cancer does not develop until the ages of 65 to 75, the presence of cancer does not increase the chance of dying. A Lancet article published today emphasises the importance of family history. Fortunately, there is no history of the Dean family suffering from the condition.

On the advice of Lancet friends I decided to have a formal second opinion. I felt I could not ask the NHS to pay for a second go, so went privately. Paradoxically, the treatment was much less courteous, the waits and delays longer, the answers more brusque. However, the second opinion convinced me I could not have cancer if a quadrant biopsy, ultrasound surveys and blood tests had not found any carcinoma. In the jargon, atypical hyperplasia was not atypical neoplasia. But the second consultant — after a urine-flow test — did conclude I needed an operation.

Daunted by the risks of becoming incontinent or impotent, I returned to Brendan Devlin, an old friend who is director of the medical-audit unit of the Royal College, and his colleagues who conducted the prostate survey. "Don't have it," was their unanimous verdict. They did have some relevant risk figures but they depended on who was surveyed: doctors or patients. Doctors reported 10 per cent of patients with increased incontinence problems; some surveys of patients found 50 per cent. There were similar variations for impotence: ranging from three to 10 per cent in official reports (although this week's Paris figures ranged from 30 to 70 per cent). The figures are complicated by age. The mean age for a prostate operation is 70. Many men at this age may want to stop sexual activity. I'm 56 and do not wish to.

Three factors persuaded me against the operation. First, my symptoms were only moderate. I do not mind getting up in the night once (or even twice after four glasses of wine) to go to the loo. Second, the risks of having the operation seemed to outweigh the risks of not having one in my case. For people with mild or moderate symptoms, there is only mild or moderate relief. Third, annual checks provide a safeguard against cancer, kidney or stone trouble. A PSA (prostate-specific antigen) test is a good cancer indicator. Other urinary infection is rare and has strong and quick indicators.

So I have opted to keep my prostate for the moment. In medical jargon, it's known as "watchful waiting". Intriguingly, studies suggest some prostate conditions improve under this approach: 25 per cent in one study. So if you suffer from the symptoms (less powerful flow, more frequent urination, drips which require shaking) do not despair. But do tell your MP that the Royal College of Surgeons needs more support so its excellent pamphlet could be distributed more widely.

Lobby the Health Secretary too. A Government committed to providing patients with more information — and more choice — ought to supply GPs with more information on the balances of risk. My GP found it extremely difficult to track down the risks, even on the Internet. He's asked me to provide him with a brief on what I discovered.

Let's have no EU retreat

Guardian European editor **John Palmer** replies to yesterday's cautionary article on this page by Will Hutton and Martin Kettle

THE BELIEF that the hour of Europe has passed and with it the prospect of closer European union is clearly a fashionable one. From Jean-Marie Le Pen and Joerg Haider on the right, through the Bundesbank conservatives and the British Eurosceptics to my Guardian colleagues, we are warned that the end is nigh.

The new nationalist right revels in the prospect not just of a European Union in crisis but of one facing gradual disintegration. Hutton and Kettle speak in a very different language — one of regretful realism. But their conclusions are strikingly similar.

European monetary union is a dangerous chimera and to talk of democratic reform of the EU institutions, let alone progress to political union in an expanding community, is to trade in illusion.

To their credit Hutton and Kettle spell out the consequences of their retreat from the European cause very clearly. The right of veto over majority key decisions in the EU must remain entrenched with national states. The directly elected European Parliament must remain sidelined in the corridors of power. Instead of monetary union we are invited to settle for some modified form of the present currency-market free-for-all. Worse still, Hutton and Kettle want the EU itself to pull up the drawbridge and refuse any new members.

The present national veto is a recipe for continued paralysis with 15 member states, let alone 30. Over the past 20 years that veto has invariably been used to block reform, which is why the British Government has deployed it with so much zeal. To insist that unanimity must be retained for all aspects of foreign, security, justice and immigration policy is to legitimise the EU's incapacity to act coherently. After the 1996 Maastricht treaty review, the European Union should make majority voting the rule rather than the exception. Of course the distribution of votes within the EU Council of Ministers should more accurately reflect the size of national populations.

The single-currency issue does raise complex and serious problems. There is no evidence that running bigger deficits or higher inflation rates than those specified in the Maastricht treaty secures greater long-term growth or employment.

But jobs and growth will be hit hard if the UK remains outside the single currency when it happens and British industry has to pay a higher interest-rate premium as a consequence. Even those countries unlikely to make the 1999 EMU target date will persist with economic convergence so as to be able to join later.

In the meantime, are countries in central and eastern Europe (and, presumably, Cyprus and Malta) really to be told there is no more room? Are they to take their chances in the political and security no-man's-land lying between an increasingly introverted and ineffectual EU and an unstable but increasingly nationalist and assertive Russia? It is precisely the prospect of membership which ensures progress towards democratic and minority rights in many of these countries. The EU should begin to negotiate enlargement straight after the 1996 IGC.

The EU can only progress with the support of its peoples. The cause of an united, democratic and regionally decentralised Europe which enshrines common democratic and citizenship rights will have to fight its corner against the coalition of old nationalists and new realists.

*The*Guardian/Fabian Conference

Wherever next? - The Future of Europe

The Commonwealth Institute, 230 High Street Kensington, London W8

Saturday 2 December 1995, 9.30am-5.00pm

Key speakers include:
Rt Hon Tony Blair MP, Rt Hon Neil Kinnock, Prime Minister Wim Kok of the Netherlands, Charles Kennedy MP, Mona Sahlin, Swedish Deputy Prime Minister, Svend Auken, Danish Environment Minister, Adair Turner, CBI Director General, Helena Kennedy QC, The Guardian's Will Hutton and Georgina Henry, David Elstein, BskyB, and Prof. David Marquand.

Ticket prices:
Fabian Members – **£18**
Non Fabian Members – **£27**
Conference Ticket & 1 Year's Fabian Membership – **£40**
Business Rate – **£85**
Voluntary Sector Rate – **£50**

Please complete the form and send it with a cheque/Postal Order (address on back) made payable to the Fabian Society, to: Specialist Conferences, PO Box 9814, London W11 3GE

I would like_____ tickets at £_____and enclose a total of £_____ Name_____
Organisation and Position (if applicable)_____
Address_____
_____Postcode_____
Daytime Tel/Fax_____
or please credit my Visa/Access
Card no: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date: ☐☐☐☐ signature_____

For further information call 0171 727 9732

GMB

Alan Bush

Marx and the music of time

THE COMPOSER Alan Bush, who has died aged 94, combined uncompromising communist convictions with a friendly reasonableness that disarmed his fiercest political opponents. In 1936 he founded the Workers Music Association, and he was also an active and articulate member of many other musical societies and organisations. He had studied at the Royal Academy of Music and privately with John Ireland, and had also taken piano lessons from Benno Moiseiwitsch and Artur Schnabel.

In 1929 he went to Berlin to study philosophy and musicology for two years. From 1935 onwards, he taught composition at the Royal Academy, and he was also active all through his career as conductor and pianist.

Bush scored his first major success as a composer with the short quartet Dialectic (1929), an accomplished if fairly severe piece with an accent neither English nor cosmopolitan. Many other abstract works which followed won him admirers for their economical use of material, rigorous control of every aspect of composition, and highly-organised processes of development and extension. In these works, he evolved his own method of composition, allied to serialism but based on tonality.

Though Bush had joined the Communist Party in 1934, it was not until after the second world war that he began to simplify and adapt his style to reach a wider, non-specialist audience. In the symphony written in 1949 for the quincentenary celebrations of Nottingham's royal charter, he set himself to eliminate confusing elements; though the symphony itself is a strong and lively work, this negative approach was not likely to create a new universal music.

In 1951, his opera Wat Tyler was one of four prize-winning works in the Arts Council's Festival of Britain opera competition. The opera was finally produced at Leipzig in 1953, and its considerable and continuing success showed that Bush had succeeded in his aim of broadening his idiom to make his music widely accessible to the public at large.

After this success, he received three more commissions from East German opera houses, and also wrote a major symphony for performance in Leipzig in 1962. But it was not until 1974 that one of his operas (Wat Tyler) had its first professional production in England.

Though political prejudice hindered the acceptance of his major works in England, it was also true that there was no niche in English musical life for the sort of popular music which Bush proved himself so well able to write.

> Prom concerts made up for a time when the BBC tried to impose a broadcast ban

The folk-like idiom of the later works often suggested links with Vaughan Williams rather than with the more fashionable political composers such as Weill, Eisler, or Henze, while the tractarian librettos of the operas tended to alienate those who responded to the music, always finely-crafted and still charged with the authentic Bush character.

Though he remains, and is likely to remain in the near future, a prophet unhonoured in his own country, the range, quality and variety of his output could well lead to his ultimate recognition in a world context.

Hugo Cole
[Hugo Cole, composer and Guardian critic, died last March]

John Amis adds: Alan Bush was a powerful speaker, militant to the point of threatening "to string up the Tories on lamp-posts". But this was offset by the fact that you knew Alan would never hurt a fly. Such double entries were common in his ledger: he was a communist but rich; he was rich but not a champagne communist. He gave much of his money away, to friends and, alas, to the party.

Another double entry was that one of his most satisfying and touching works, A Winter Journey: A Cantata For Soloists, Chorus and Strings, tells the Christmas story. It is meant to tell that story in terms of Marxism but the poet wrote it in such a way that it comes out without political overtones. Alan realised this and would sooner not have had it performed in an 85th birthday concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall because, as he said, "it lacks revolutionary ardour."

This was the last occasion on which he appeared as a pianist — up to virtuoso standard — in his early solo work, Relinquishment. When I asked him what kind of relinquishment he replied in his best, gravelly Speakers' Corner voice, but with a twinkle in his eye "of an amatory nature."

Behind the Iron Curtain after the war, Bush was an honoured guest, treated as an equal by the leading Soviet composers; his four operas were produced in 11 different theatres. In the UK the operas were belatedly broadcast but his music was otherwise rarely performed.

The BBC commissioned a new work for the Proms, where his music had been occasionally played, including Symphony in C (mostly atonal) in which the Cliveden Set is musically pilloried, the Archbishop of Canterbury with a resounding fart on the contra-bassoon.

These Proms made up for a time when, during the war, the corporation mooted a ban on the broadcast of Bush's music, thwarted by the ever good-hearted Vaughan Williams who threatened the BBC with the withdrawal of all his music from the air.

When I asked Alan once how it was that he wasn't bitter at the loss of opportunities during the 30s and 40s, he answered, "It was disappointing at the time but then you might say that I asked for it."

Alan was blessed with a happy marriage and three daughters, two of whom survive him. Nancy, sister of the composer Michael Head, was not only his partner in life but also the librettist of many of his works, including three of the operas. When she died in 1991 they had been married for 60 years.

The Royal Academy of Music in London clearly did not fear that Alan Bush would subvert its students with red politics for he was professor of composition at that institution for over half a century. His treatise Strict Counterpoint In The Palestrina Style remains a monumental guide for all students.

I last visited Alan a year ago in his home in Radlett, Hertfordshire. He regaled me with details of his marriage in 1931, recalling that his best man had been the composer (no relation) William Busch. And he remembered me because we had met in the 40s. But the last 45 years, including what he had done the day before, were erased completely from his memory. He was not even aware that the Soviet Union had collapsed and it seemed futile to insist on it. Instead we talked of his great music of the late 20s and 30s: Dialectic, the Concertpiece for cello and piano, Relinquishment and, his favourite, the vast piano concerto with chorale finale.

Alan Dudley Bush, composer, pianist and teacher, born December 22, 1900; died October 31, 1995

Uncompromising . . . Alan Bush, a portrait bronze by Ian Walters, made to celebrate the composer's 80th birthday

Alun Pask

A flyer on the field

ALUN PASK, who has died aged 58, was a rugby player born before his time. He played during the sterile era of the 1960s when direct kicks into touch were allowed and the game stagnated. But to Pask rugby was about running and movement, and he lit up a dull period.

He captained Abertillery in the North Gwent Valley and, on six occasions, the Welsh national side (for which he played a total of 26 times). Between 1962 and 1966 he played in nine Tests for the Lions. He resembled a modern backrow forward in the way he carried the ball and kept movement alive and was widely regarded as the outstanding player of his generation.

The president of Abertillery, Ian Brice, said of him yesterday: "Alun played a modern rugby 35 years ago. He was somebody who would pop up in the most extraordinary place on the field to get his side out of a hole. His vision and anticipation marked him apart from others."

Pask was born in Blackwood, a few miles from Abertillery, and educated at Pontllanfraith grammar school and Loughborough College. He joined Abertillery in 1957 and won his first Welsh cup four years later.

He went on the 1962 Lions tour to South Africa and four years later went with them to Australia and New Zealand, dislocating his shoulder in the final Test. He played for one more season before announcing his retirement from the game in May 1967.

A schoolteacher by training, he became a sports producer for BBC Wales and later worked for Torfan Borough Council.

His brother, David, played first-class rugby for Glamorgan Wanderers whilst his son Richard, one of his three children and a Cambridge blue, this week joined the first division club, Treorchy.

David Plummer

Alun Edward Ishwyn Pask, rugby international, born September 10, 1937; died November 2, 1995

Kenneth Dadzie

Diplomat for Africa

KENNETH Dadzie, who has died aged 65 after a stroke, was not only Ghana's high commissioner in London (his second time in this key post) but a humanist of immense compassion and vision, whose contribution to the cause of development was most keenly realised in several senior posts in the United Nations, in New York and Geneva.

He was educated at Achimota College in Ghana and at Queen's College, Cambridge, where he took the economics tripos in 1952 (and was made an honorary fellow in 1991), and following a stint as a civil servant joined Ghana's foreign service in 1956.

After serving in a variety of capacities, including at the Foreign Office in London and the Ghanaian embassy in Paris, he was posted to New York as Ghana's deputy permanent representative at the UN, from 1960 to 1963.

Over the years Dadzie's skills as a diplomat made him an invaluable member of Ghana's team for negotiations with the IMF, the World Bank and other international institutions, but he was also much in demand to take on roles outside the country's public service. During 1965 he was on loan to the Organisation of African Unity in Addis Ababa, becoming head of its office in New York.

Dadzie . . . generous spirit

He was also briefly attached to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a senior fellow and, much later, he served on the governing bodies of a number of institutions concerned with development, including Sussex University's Institute of Development Studies, the Third World Foundation, the International Foundation for Development Studies, the Society for International Development and the North-South Round Table.

Dadzie's secondment to the UN Secretariat in 1963 began a long association with that organisation, in the course of which he was linked with many milestones in its evolution.

In 1983, as chair of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of International Development Strategy for the Third UN Development Decade, he was instrumental in bringing about a new consensus on international development co-operation.

In 1986 he was elected secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) — the first African to hold that position. According to UNCTAD's current secretary-general, Rubens Ricupero, Dadzie was "the driving force behind the far-reaching institutional reforms which equipped UNCTAD to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving world economy".

After many years living in Geneva — he went to the UN office there in 1973 as director of external relations and inter-agency affairs, and two years later was named as Ghana's permanent representative, with concurrent accreditation as ambassador to Austria and Switzerland — he seemed destined to keep returning to London. He was first appointed as Ghana's high commissioner to the UK in 1982.

Twelve years later, in July 1994, he was again called upon to assume the role, one which he was carrying out with his usual consummate charm and generosity of spirit at the time of his sudden death.

In his public persona Dadzie was much admired for his sharpness of intellect, political judgment and diplomatic acumen. In private he was delightful company, with an irreverent sense of humour and biting wit that belied his quiet-spoken, dapper appearance — he typically dressed in a pin-striped three-piece suit. A voracious reader, his study book-lined from floor to ceiling, he had precise yet unpredictable tastes.

One of the highlights of a lunch with him at a favourite haunt, such as the Oxford and Cambridge Club (we were planning another get-together when I saw him the week before his death, at a reception for Africa 95 at Lancaster House) would be a riveting account of his current or planned reading.

I remember on one such occasion asking which of the books I had recently published at Allison & Busby he might like to read; he surprised me by declaring a passion for the novels of Ivy Compton-Burnett.

Margaret Busby

Kenneth Kweku Sinaman Dadzie, diplomat, born September 10, 1930; died October 25, 1995

Letters: Brian Easdale and Derek Enright

Social life of a 'recluse'

Josephine Easdale writes: The account of my father Brian Easdale's last years in your excellent obituary *(October 31)* gave a very false impression. Until the last he was a man with a wonderful sense of humour and to be described as "forgotten and destitute" would have afforded him great amusement.

The photograph in his "institutional room" reinforces the image, but the reality was quite different. During his alcoholic phase of the sixties he needed special care and went to live in a private room at Carlton Dene, Kilburn. After his recovery he saw no reason to move and lived in this room for the remainder of his life, loved and well-cared for by the staff.

Like many of his generation and background he rarely spoke of his private life, and to those who did not know him well his circumstances suggested that he had been abandoned by his family, but this was never the case and all of us, including his many friends, continued to visit him and to take him out regularly until the last.

Far from being sad and forgotten, he was the most companionable of men who enjoyed few things better than a friendly pub, a barley wine and good conversation. In his last years he was frequently in pain from a variety of afflictions, but his stoicism was complete, and he could never be kept long in hospital or confined to his room.

Probably the lack of work after his great successes with Powell and Pressburger was due in some part to his habitual modesty and lack of self-promotion, but it was gratifying to be with him at the performance of The Red Shoes Ballet at Kenwood last August, to witness the standing ovation of the orchestra and see his frail figure rising to acknowledge the applause of the crowd.

Peter Rankin adds: Brian Easdale may have appeared inarticulate and distant, but that was just the computer programmed to "search". I found this out during many a Sunday lunch given by my grandmother, the concert promoter Andrée Ratcliffe. A question would be asked or a name forgotten. Brian would pause and stare into the distance. Embarrassed or impatient, someone at the table would talk about something else. Invariably at the next gap in conversation, Brian would slide in the missing answer or lost name. Underneath the diffidence and hesitancy there was both steel and a love of life. How else would he have lived to 86?

Derek Fatchett writes: While Derek Enright *(Obituary, November 2)* and I were out canvassing in a mining village during the byelection in 1991, we spotted a Labour poster in a window. Underneath the official slogan, "Vote Labour: Put Hemsworth First," someone had written — in Latin — "not before time." It turned out that the voter was one of Derek's former pupils from the local comprehensive. The warmth and mischief in those words, and the lingering memory of the teacher who inspired them, summed up the effect Derek Enright had on those who knew him.

There were those who said that Derek would never be accepted in Hemsworth because he was the imposed NEC candidate, and not the favoured son of the NUM. How wrong they were. Derek's commitment and love of his fellow men and women won people to his cause.

Indeed, his warm nature and sense of fun endeared him to many: the old boater he sported when umpiring Lords and Commons cricket games; his pride in recording a Latin version of Yellow Submarine; his joy when his pet won a prize in the Lords and Commons dog show; and his love of Rugby League and all the game stood for.

Birthdays

Adam Ant, pop singer, 41; **John Biffen**, MP, former Conservative minister, 65; **Charles Bronson**, actor, 73; **Jean Floud**, sociologist, 80; **Larry Holmes**, boxer, 46; **Ludovic Kennedy**, writer and broadcaster, 76; **Viscount Linley**, furniture designer, 34; **Lulu**, singer, 47; **Conor Cruise O'Brien**, writer, 78; **Albert Reynolds**, former Taoiseach, Ireland, 62; **Monica Vitti**, actress, 62; **Anna Wintour**, editor, US Vogue, 46; **Ian Wright**, footballer, 32.

Death Notices

BUSH. On October 31, 1995, peacefully in hospital following a short illness, Alan Dudley, Mus.D., Composer, formerly Professor Royal Academy of Music, aged 94. Much loved father of Rachel and Catherine and devoted grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on Tuesday, 7th November at 2.30pm. Flowers by 12.30pm and/or donations, if preferred to Musicians' Union Benevolent Fund to go to Nethercott & Son Ltd, 20 Aldenham Road, Radlett WD7 7AX.

JENKINS, John, on November 2nd 1995 peacefully at home. John, Minister of Saltaire United Reformed Church, Saltaire, West Yorkshire. Husband of Valerie and father of Simon and Rachel. Any enquiries to H.H. Birch, Funeral Directors Tel: 01274 583487. *Roman's site, 38,39'.*

NIELSEN Olaf, Skipper. Died peacefully in a hospice on 25th October.

PASHLEY David George, suddenly on Sunday 29 October 1995, aged 52; Head of Business Administration, Thames Television International, since 1982. Dearly loved and deeply mourned by his family and the many who enjoyed the warmth of his friendship and affection and for whom his death brings an irreplaceable loss. Private funeral at Newport, Isle of Wight, today 3 November. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, c/o William Hall, Funeral Directors, Springbank, Winford Road, Newchurch, Sandown, Isle of Wight. PO36 0JX.

☎To place your announcement telephone 0171 611 9080

Jackdaw

Ding dong

Finca Vigia
San Francisco de Paula
Cuba

March 16, 1942

DEAR Donald,
I was glad to get your letter, but somewhat amazed at your attitude about the script. You should never have sent it to me, nor should Dudley Nichols have expected you to send it to me without expecting me to do something about the ignorant, the inept and the dangerously wrong phases of it.

I can see how much worse Dudley's script could have been. There is no question about it at all, nor that he has tried to follow faithfully much of the book. But there is no reason to condone fatal ignorance, bad writing and bad construction in the script of a picture which means as much as this picture means. It can be a great picture or a disastrous flop and Dudley has taken a terrible responsibility in the way he has bitched it up . . . Because I am so severe where the script is wrong, do not think that I do not appreciate the good parts that Dudley has done, but this is like a battle, and there is no time for praising something that has gone properly. The defects must be corrected and where no censure or praise is given, it means that one understands what the man has done with what he has had to work with . . .

On page 71 please use the word "planes" or the Spanish word "aviones" instead of "air machines". Air machines is as idiotic and corny used in Spanish or with Spanish people as if you would have someone referring to flying machines instead of planes in the American Army. The same holds true for that horrible corniness about the "machinery gun". The audience know that these people are Spaniards and are foreigners and it is not necessary to make them idiots.

On page 85, Gustavo is middle-aged and wears long mustaches. I think this is the same Italian influence that got the other guy called Rinaldo. There haven't been any long mustaches on Spaniards in the last 100 years. Please keep long mustaches off everybody in the picture unless you are prepared to furnish little cartons for the audience to vomit in for the South American trade . . . If I sound bitter in this, please throw it out, the bitterness or any rudeness or insults. I am trying to be accurate and correct in a hurry and it is like being on a boat. There is no time to say, "Please cast off this," or, "Please make this fast." The politeness is understood and throw out the rudeness. But everything I say I mean absolutely and sincerely. Only do not be offended by the fact that I have to be tough and say it in a hurry.

Best regards to yourself and to Dudley Nichols.
Yours always, Ernest.

From a letter written by Ernest Hemingway to Donald Friede, a Hollywood agent who arranged the sale of Hemingway's Spanish civil war novel For Whom The Bell Tolls to Paramount Studios for $100,000. Hemingway was responding to a draft of the script written by Dudley Nichols. Reprinted in Harper's magazine from The Antioch Review. Nichols's script was made into a film in 1943, directed by Sam Wood and starring Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman. The script has been criticised as "static and reverential".

Going down

HOW lovely to be invited to write for the Spectator again. Now that the loathsome sneering features, pastily glistening, of its former editor peer slit-eyedly out at the reader from the op-edge in the Sunday Telegraph, I may occasionally be granted this, the most eclectic of all privileges in journalism. "The circulation will go down, of course," I congratulated the new editor in tones more of hope than prediction, "and you are the person to bring this about." Down, down and deliberately down, so that soon we are left with just the tiniest elite: those who pine for the quintessential elixir of high intellect and discernment . . .

Gravitas. I am trying, but not, plainly, hard enough. I won't go into a television studio containing David Mellor. I won't write in any series or category where the name "Roy Hattersley" did, or is likely to, appear. The moment I hear the word lighthearted — "We're looking for a light-hearted piece on . . .", It's going to be quite a light-hearted programme . . .", "If you could take a light-hearted look at . . ." — I head for the hills. I won't write about restaurants, or wine. I won't do Late Shows. "Just a lot of men sitting around in shirt-sleeves," said Jane, "but you know underneath they're all wearing woolly vests."

I won't (the sums of money on offer are enormous) do "extended" travel programmes, wandering about in a muck sweat in a pale suit with vicious tummy trouble and enduring the "shall we just do that once more, Alan, only this time when you've finished trying to make yourself understood to her, half turn, and kind of wink at the camera". It all raises one's recognition factor, of course, which is important for those in the public eye.

Alan Clark rejoices in the new regime for the Spectator's Diary.

Clark's Diary . . . Spectator

New everything

A NEW mood is sweeping through the British people. Up and down the country, you can sense it.

In big cities and small towns, in urban heartlands and leafy suburbs, you can feel the change.

It is like the first touch of spring after a long, hard winter. And it has been a long, hard winter for our nation.

For 16 years we have suffered under Conservative governments which put greed before charity, the powerful before the weak, the rich before the poor. We have seen our treasured health service brought to its knees. Our state schools reduced to the level of a Third World country . . .

For millions of citizens, hope has been replaced by despair and fear.

Now we stand on the threshold of something different. Something exciting and inspirational.

As a new century and millennium approach, so the British people are turning their backs to the dark years and raising their eyes to a bright future.

We all have a part to play in reaching that promised land but we will not get there without leadership. From politicians and those who head our businesses, communities and churches. The Daily Mirror has a special part to play, too. Today we pledge ourselves to that task.

It is not a promise we make lightly. Much of the press shares the blame for the sordid, squalid years through which we have lied.

The Daily Mirror's new editor Piers Morgan (formerly of the Sun and the News of the World) pledges to go forward with New Labour in a full page leader in yesterday's paper. The article ended with the words "New Britain. New Labour. New Mirror."

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian-.co.uk.; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister

Right chemistry at Boots, page 12

Supermarket wars hot up, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Fed orders Daiwa to shut down operations in the US

Jonathan Confino

DAIWA Bank was last night reeling from a double blow after the American central bank ordered it to close its operations in the US and it was formally charged by federal prosecutors with trying to cover up $1.1 billion (£705 million) in bond losses.

The Federal Reserve told Daiwa to close its US operations within 90 days because it had "engaged in a pattern of unsafe and unsound banking practices and violations over an extended period of time that are most serious in nature".

Meanwhile, federal prosecutors unveiled a sweeping criminal indictment against the Japanese-owned bank, accusing it and a senior manager of directing a scheme to cover up the losses by rogue trader Toshihide Iguchi.

If found guilty, Daiwa faces fines of more than $1 billion. The fresh charges represent the first time US authorities have gone after a major foreign bank since charging Bank of Credit and Commerce International in 1990.

The indictment also shows that authorities believe the cover-up initially blamed by bank management on Mr Iguchi actually reached up the ladder of bank management.

When he pleaded guilty last month to forging bank records and embezzlement in a scheme to hide the spectacular losses, Mr Iguchi also apparently laid the groundwork for yesterday's broader indictment against Masahiro Tsuda, the former manager of Daiwa's New York branch.

Mr Tsuda and the bank were accused of obstructing US examinations of its branches, making false statements to federal agencies, and falsifying books and records of a branch of a foreign bank. The indictment said other unnamed people were also involved.

Mr Iguchi had told a federal judge that his superiors directed him to continue covering up his losses in the two months before the bank publicly disclosed the scandal on September 25.

Daiwa has denied Mr Iguchi's claim of a conspiracy, saying it allowed him to continue trading so as not to alarm him while bank officials quietly investigated his story.

Federal prosecutors have also accused Daiwa of filing a quarterly financial report with the Federal Reserve without disclosing losses of which the bank was aware.

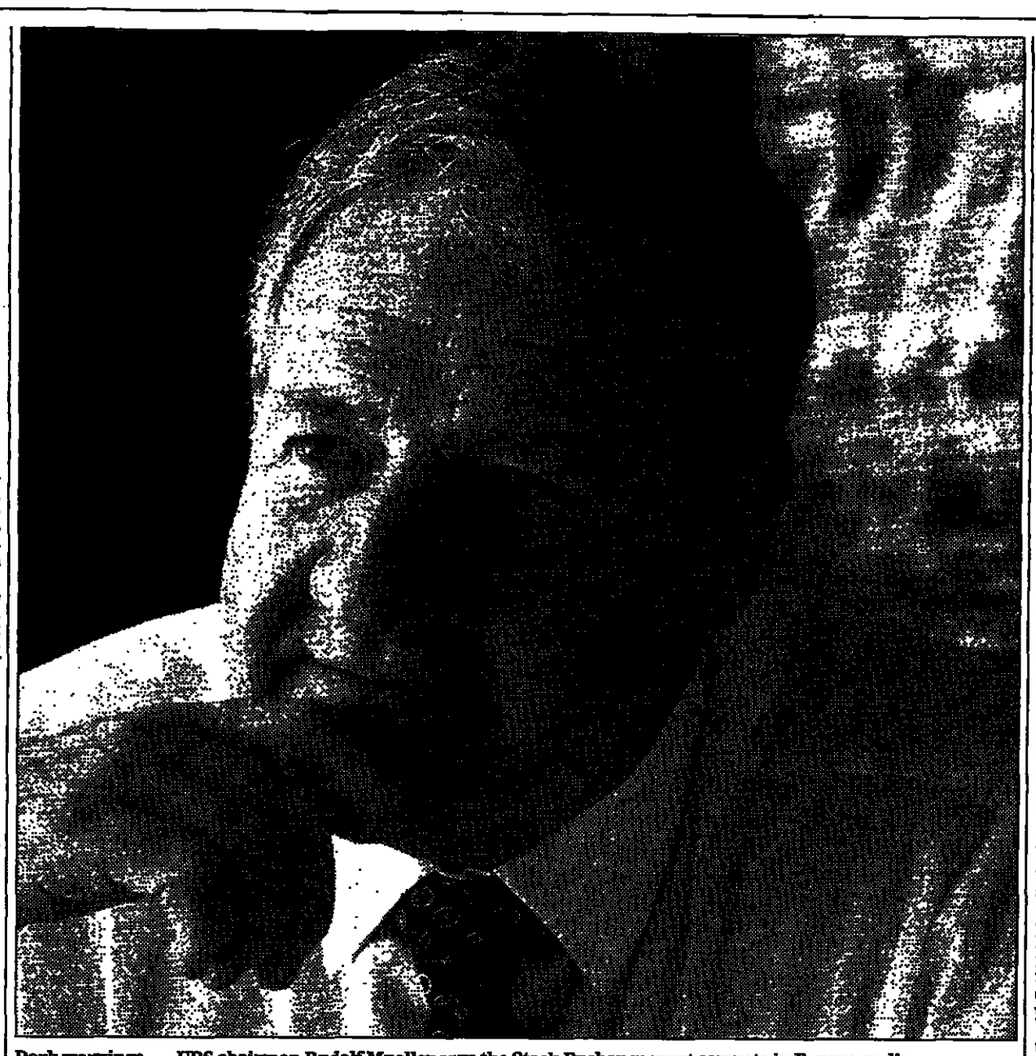
The Fed cited several reasons for demanding the closure of Daiwa:

- Bank officials attempted to conceal trading losses of more than $1 billion between 1983 and September 1995 at the New York branch. Regulators said the losses were "concealed through liquidations of securities held in the bank's custody accounts and falsification of its custody records".
- Senior Daiwa managers, who learned of the losses on July 24, 1995, "directed that those losses be concealed from US bank regulatory and law enforcement authorities and the public for almost two months".
- In 1992 and 1993, senior managers at Daiwa's New York branch "undertook a series of actions designed to deceive bank examiners regarding Daiwa's trading activities".
- Last month, following the start of government investigations, it was discovered that Daiwa Bank Trust Co incurred trading losses of $97 million, some of which stemmed from unauthorised transactions between 1984 and 1987. "These losses should have been, but purposely were not, reflected in the books and records" of the trust company.

Daiwa is also facing tough action from regulators in Japan. Two days ago, Japan's finance ministry rejected a series of proposed reforms from Daiwa to improve its internal inspection systems.

The ministry said Daiwa's proposals were inadequate and ordered the bank to report back with more substantial measures as soon as possible.

The bank has been denied substantial business in Japan as a result of the $1.1 billion losses.



Dark warnings . . . UBS chairman Rudolf Mueller says the Stock Exchange must compete in Europe or die

Stock Exchange under fire for failing to meet City's demands

Patrick Donovan and Paul Murphy

THE London Stock Exchange will be forced to "rethink its future" because of its failure to compete in the European share market, Rudolf Mueller, chairman of UBS, one of London's most powerful trading houses, warned yesterday.

Mr Mueller, in an interview with the Guardian, said that it was "very difficult" to see the Exchange continuing in its present form. And he said that he expects the Exchange to undergo a restructuring process which could involve cost cutting and a switch to "order-drive" dealing for the City's most illiquid shares.

His views were yesterday privately endorsed by several of the City's biggest institutions who are increasingly critical of the way the stock market is being run.

The head of operations at one investment bank said: "We need a stock exchange, but not one that is alien to its members. They are just not good at listening. We would like the exchange to stop and think what it is trying to be, to set its strategy."

The UBS chairman quit as a director of the Stock Exchange in July because of disappointment over its approach to Europe. The City's institutions have increasingly been bypassing the Seaq system and enjoying cheaper dealing costs through direct dealing with other European bourses. The amount of cross-border European business passing through Seaq will fall further when new EU rules shortly come into effect, traders expect. This will allow the member of any European bourse the right to "remote membership" in other EU stock markets.

The UBS chairman insists that London will continue as an international finance centre. "The question of London as a finance centre and a stock exchange must be separated. I see London growing as a financial centre. The tools for risk management are all here in the City," Mr Mueller said. But, he added, the City had now "missed the boat" over building itself up as a pan-European exchange. He said that the London Stock Exchange will have to carve out a new role for itself as a regional market authority.

UBS is just the latest major broker to criticise the Stock Exchange's strategy. Last week, NatWest Markets surprised the City by announcing that it was scaling back on its reliance on the Stock Exchange's system for European share dealing because it was far less cost effective than direct trading.

One senior broker said: "One has to ask whether a corporate body of this stature should be acting like this — shooting from the hip. It is losing its revenue from Talisman [the settlement service being replaced by the Bank of England's Crest system] and it just seems to be looking for a new lunch ticket."

Meanwhile, Brian Winterflood, head of small company market maker Winterflood Securities, slammed the idea of introducing an order-driven system for illiquid stocks. "It is crackers, and it will not help liquidity."

Complacency ruled as competitors sharpened up their acts

THE Stock Exchange is paying a high price for its complacent belief that it is still Europe's pre-eminent stock market, writes Patrick Donovan.

In the aftermath of the 1986 Big Bang it was hard to imagine any of the other European bourses developing a credible rival to its Seaq computerised dealing system. It was the natural choice for London-based institutions looking to trade in cross-border continental share deals. But as John Woodman, chief operating officer for European equities at SBC-Warburg, says, rival European markets have been quick to sharpen up their act.

The result has been that the exchange is in danger of being priced out of cross-border deals transacted in London dealing rooms.

The problem is that the average spread of prices market makers offer on the Seaq "quote driven" system is equivalent to a commission rate of around 0.75 per cent. The "order driven" exchanges set up by its main European rivals are able to offer a rate of 0.35 per cent. In other words, London trading floors can halve their dealing costs if they bypass Seaq.

London is going to face an even greater loss of business when new European Union rules come into force at the beginning of next year. This will allow any European bourse the right to deal in any other through "remote membership" facilities.

It is not just price that is making Seaq lose out to other markets. Leading traders say they prefer the greater "visibility" of order-driven systems over the quote-driven Seaq. And they say that European stock markets are seen as fairer in that they do not have built-in regulations which favour the biggest institutional clients.

Salary rises for top executives take off again

Lisa Buckingham

PAY rises for Britain's highest paid executives have accelerated sharply in the past 12 months, reversing the five-year trend that saw increases for chairmen and chief executives fall by two-thirds.

The latest survey of top executive pay from the influential Monks Partnership shows that total earnings for the highest paid directors grew by 8.8 per cent — more than twice the rate of inflation and of average earnings growth.

The increase for 1995 compares with 5.8 per cent in 1994 and contrasts with the declines in recent years which saw the rate of total pay growth drop from 17.3 per cent in 1989.

The Monks' survey suggests that much of the impetus for higher boardroom salaries is being felt in the UK's large companies. Directors in firms with a turnover of less than £20 million tend to win rises of just 5 per cent.

Bonuses are reckoned to contribute about 19 per cent of individual directors' total pay packages although Monks comments that only half the companies in the latest survey awarded their directors this extra pay element.

Directors in financial services companies, particularly banks, tend to do best from incentive payments and, contrary to adverse publicity, utility companies tend to pay their directors only average bonuses.

Although three-quarters of the directors in the survey received some increase in their total pay package there was only a small increase in the very upper echelons. The number of millionaire directors, which last year doubled to 16, this year swelled by just three. But that total has already dropped back to 18 after the departure of Tiny Rowland from Lonrho.

David Atkins, editor of the Monks' report, said the small rise in the £1 million club reflected the fact that "the performance criteria that companies use . . . is, perhaps, more stringent than in the past. The result is that outstanding company performance will produce high rewards for the individual but average performance will not."

He added that more of the large companies which tend to breed million pound men are introducing longer-term incentive plans which reward with shares rather than cash. Many of the plans have been put in place only over the past couple of years and are therefore unlikely to yield up bonuses until 1997 or 1998.

Britain's top payers

Company	Highest paid executive £m
Royal Bank of Scotland	17.4
British Sky Broadcasting	4.7
SmithKline Beecham	2.4
SG Warburg & Co	2.1
Robert Fleming Holdings	2.0
JH Schroder Wagg & Co	1.6
Lonrho	1.6
Glaxo Holdings	1.5
NatWest Group	1.5
Schroders	1.4

Private firms queue up to run teachers' pension scheme

Teresa Hunter

THE Government yesterday took the first major step towards privatising public sector pension schemes, by announcing a shortlist of companies bidding to make payments to 1.2 million teachers and former teachers.

The education minister Robin Squire invited Abbey National Benefit Consultants, Colonial Mutual Group, Capita Group, CSL Group, Hartshead Solway and ITnet Limited to make a formal tender for the contract to administer the Teachers' Superannuation Scheme, which currently pays out nearly £3 billion annually at a cost of £11 million.

The National Union of Teachers has attacked the cost-cutting move, pointing out that the overwhelming number of bodies consulted by the Government advised against a private contract.

An NUT spokesman said: "As a whole teachers have received a very good service from the Superannuation Scheme. Although we might like to see improvements to the pension itself, the scheme has operated very efficiently and we cannot see how the service could be improved."

The jobs of the 400 staff based at Darlington, Co Durham, should be guaranteed at least initially, according to a spokesman for the Department of Education. However, he admitted that if the privatisation proceeded, there could be no long-term guarantees on job security.

An Abbey National spokesman said its bid offered to re-employ a "substantial" number of the staff currently employed. Mr Squire said current employees would be protected under the Transfer of Undertakings Regulations.

He stressed that privatising the administration would not affect the size or safety of the fund. He said: "The scheme has no real pension fund. Instead, payments are made to and from the Exchequer."

He also reassured teachers that contractors would be prohibited from using data for marketing their own products. He said: "A contractor would not be allowed to use data on teachers for purposes other than administering the scheme. All the companies have declared that they would maintain confidentiality."

Robert Maxwell 'feared telephone eavesdroppers'

Maxwell trial

Ian King

ROBERT Maxwell was so obsessed with secrecy he told his son Kevin never to discuss sensitive business matters with him over the phone, an Old Bailey court was told yesterday.

Kevin Maxwell said that when he had telephoned his father to say that one of his companies had broken a foreign exchange contract, the tycoon was "livid".

The revelation came during Mr Maxwell's 14th day in the witness box, his second day under cross-examination, and during one of several heated exchanges with the Crown prosecutor Alan Suckling.

The pair clashed when Mr Suckling suggested that Mr Maxwell had been "shifting" during an interview with the liquidators of Bishopsgate Investment Management, which had managed several Maxwell company pension funds.

Clearly angry, Mr Maxwell replied: "I understand that you are a professional prosecutor doing your job, but I resent that."

Mr Maxwell said his interview with BIM's liquidators had been "examination by ambush ... extremely hostile".

Later, Mr Maxwell described a meeting with his father in which, he claimed, he had seen an amended document authorising the transfer of £100 million of shares from BIM to Robert Maxwell's private company.

But Mr Suckling said: "This meeting never took place, did it, Mr Maxwell?"

Mr Maxwell replied: "Mr Suckling, you have to say that. My defence has not changed for four years."

Mr Suckling then asked Mr Maxwell what had happened to the document.

Mr Maxwell answered, angrily: "I can't believe you are asking me that question. You know very well we have looked everywhere we have been allowed to."

Kevin Maxwell denies two charges of conspiring to defraud pension funds. His brother Ian and financial adviser Larry Trachtenberg each deny one charge. The case continues today.

Notebook

Six sages caught in triple bind

Edited by Mark Milner

WITH the Budget now less than four weeks away, the Chancellor is getting plenty of advice about what exactly constitutes the right mix to satisfy the needs of three demanding masters — politics, finance and economics.

Today's report from the Six Wise Men offers something for everybody, but the extent of Mr Clarke's — and, by extension, the Government's dilemma — is that none of his esteemed advisers seems to have the secret of yoking the troika together.

Patrick Minford, for example, has the solution Mr Clarke's backbenchers want to hear. Forget the measly £3 billion tax cuts being bandied around, he tells the Chancellor, and go for £6 billion in each of the next three years. What's more, that will not be enough to perk up the economy, which also needs a point off interest rates.

This would no doubt have the backbenchers and the Conservative tabloids salivating on the morning after the Budget, just as did Nigel Lawson's 1988 package. But there must be severe doubts about whether the economy could stomach such an expansionary boost, and the City's response would be swift and brutal.

After all, the Bank of England is announcing the terms of the next gilts auction on November 29, and the chances of getting the stock away safely in the aftermath of a Minford-style Budget would be, shall we say, somewhat diminished.

A similar criticism could be applied to Professor Minford's alter ego on the panel, Wynne Godley, who also favours an expansionist package but believes a £5 billion stimulus should be directed towards infrastructure spending. This, Professor Godley says, would signal a recovery based on investment rather than consumption.

This strategy makes economic sense, given Britain's woeful investment record, and is strengthened by Prof Godley's view that any fiscal relaxation now would have to be repaid with interest later on. But would the markets really see it like that? And what would all those disappointed voters think?

The third option — favoured by most of the panel — is for a pretty tight Budget, with a preference for interest rate cuts over a fiscal boost, but an acceptance of tax cuts as long as they are paid for in full by sustainable spending reductions.

While this is sensible advice, it has the innate problem that it may do little for the economy, intensify the Government's unpopularity and thus by a roundabout route still unsettle the City. Mr Clarke, being Mr Clarke, is likely to go for something a bit more radical.

Trading places

STORM clouds continue to swirl around the Stock Exchange tower. Talk of the need for the Exchange to rethink its future is not new, but the pressure appears to be growing more intense, especially when the organisation comes under fire from such a knowledgeable insider as UBS's Rudolf Mueller.

The problem goes back almost 10 years. The Exchange's traditional role sprang from its provision of the physical market place for share dealing. From such a position it was logical for the market provider to determine such things as access (for both companies and investors) and supervision.

But technology undermined the old foundations. The speed with which the Stock Exchange's trading floor emptied, after 1986's Big Bang, showed the extent to which the market participants were ready to embrace change.

The snag is that the Exchange's reflexes have been rather slower. There have been bright spots — take Seaq International. Some users may be deserting it, but over the years it has brought much valuable business to London and it was only to be expected that other markets would fight hard to win back their domestic business.

The worst that could be said is that the Exchange might have used its initial position of strength to put itself at the head of a pan-European exchange, but that is easier said than done.

Other chapters have been less happy — the failure of Taurus was perhaps the biggest disaster, but the Exchange has been less than adept at dealing with a number of issues.

There are roles the Exchange can usefully perform. It still owns the dealing system. The need for market regulation remains. But there are other ways of trading shares, other bodies capable of regulation. There is a growing feeling that the Exchange needs to demonstrate not simply that it knows its role but, more fundamentally, that it is capable of the process of determining that role.

Reel irony

TWO years ago, France and the United States took the Uruguay trade round to the brink of breakdown over the issue of American access to the European market for films.

Now — if market rumours are anything to go by — Dutch-owned PolyGram may be about make France's Credit Lyonnais an offer for the Hollywood film studio MGM. For those who enjoy such things, there is a nice irony in the thought that the fate of a tidy tranche of Tinseltown may be decided in Europe. Hollywood power-brokers, who hated the 1993 deal, are unlikely to be among those appreciating the irony.

Clarke has leeway for Budget tax cut, say forecasters

Sarah Ryle

THE British economy will grow faster than those of any of the other G7 countries next year, providing the leeway for the Chancellor to take a penny off income tax in the Budget this month, according to a leading economic forecasting group.

Tax giveaways costing £2 billion would not seriously threaten the Government's borrowing target or low inflation goal in the light of the better economic performance, according to the London Business School's Economic Outlook published today.

In an article on the Budget dilemma facing Chancellor Kenneth Clarke, three LBS academics said the UK economy would benefit considerably from a competitive pound boosting exports, increased investment spending and a recovery in consumer demand aided by tax cuts in the Budget.

Dr Andrew Sentance, director of the Centre for Economic Forecasting, and his co-authors, said big tax cuts would be out of the question because of the fragility of the economy at present and because of the drive to cut the public sector borrowing requirement.

However, the three LBS academics said in their report they were "optimistic" about the outcome for this year's budget deficit, and had pencilled in a PSBR of £25.2 billion, slightly above the Government's £23.5 billion forecast in the summer, but below the current consensus in the City of £27.6 billion.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.015	France 7.46	Italy 2,470	Singapore 2.19
Austria 15.10	Germany 2.17	Malta 0.54	South Africa 5.58
Belgium 44.25	Greece 362.00	Netherlands 2.435	Spain 187.00
Canada 2.06	Hong Kong 12.00	New Zealand 2.36	Sweden 10.36
Cyprus 0.685	India 53.95	Norway 9.82	Switzerland 1.74
Denmark 8.40	Ireland 0.955	Portugal 229.00	Turkey 77,289
Finland 6.65	Israel 4.77	Saudi Arabia 5.87	USA 1.5425

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Rolls gives balloon a lift

RICHARD Branson and Per Lindstrand will be putting their faith in the smaller of the two engines (right) when they embark on their latest record breaking attempt.

The entrepreneur and Lindstrand, the Shropshire-based balloon manufacturer, were at the Derby plant of Rolls-Royce yesterday for tests to be run on the engines for Virgin Global Challenger, the 174 ft high hot air and helium balloon in which they aim to fly around the world non-stop in some 18 days.

Two tiny engines will keep the propane gas burning as the balloon rides the jet stream. Take-off is due later this month and such are the risks that Virgin has taken out £31.5 million life insurance on Branson.

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVE SNOWDON

Food shares slide after discount store announces 7 per cent drop

Price war fears deepened by Kwik Save profits fall

Tony May

ABOUT £800 million was wiped off the stock market value of the food retailing sector yesterday after a profits fall at Kwik Save stoked fears of a further flare-up in the supermarket price war.

This brought to £1.58 billion the total lost since the market leader, Sainsbury, reported disappointing results on Wednesday and warned that profit margins would remain under pressure.

The market was caught off-guard by a 7 per cent drop in profits at Kwik Save, from £135 million to £125.5 million. Chief executive Graeme Bowler also warned that sales in the first eight weeks of its current financial year were down 2.5 per cent.

The news wiped £160 million off Kwik Save's market value, with the shares closing down 68p at 610p.

Bill Myers, food analyst at Williams de Broe, said the market was worried about a rerun of May 1993, when Gateway launched its Pricecheck offensive to save itself from declining sales.

"People are terrified of that happening again. So any indication of a renewed price war and we will see share prices fall again," he said.

An analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite said Kwik Save's strategy must continue to focus on undercutting the big supermarket chains. "You have to remember that Bowler has a background in Australian discounting, and by Australian standards Kwik Save's margins are obscene."

Mr Bowler said it was too early to say how long the resurgence in the price war would last. "From where it is today we have got to see what happens through Christmas. We are in a very important trading period right now and this sort of activity is not unusual."

The group's statement said that food retailers would have to keep a close eye on pricing because of the limited capacity of the UK food market and the expansion plans of superstore operators.

It added that its big investment programme in the year — it doubled its spending to £200 million by adding 152 new stores, including Shoprite — would continue to affect earnings next year.

Kwik Save bought the Shoprite food chain last November but said yesterday that the benefits of the acquisition would not show for some time and the full effect of changing the look of its small stores would be seen in two to three years.

Mr Bowler said the company had identified 350 "under-performing" small stores where sales had fallen by about 6 per cent.

Some stores would be closed, but most would be refitted. Those which had been revamped had already shown a turnaround in sales. The cost of these refits and the loss of sales caused by closure of the stores — which should take £50,000 to £60,000 a week — had exacerbated the fall in profits.

Transport fury as FirstBus threatens cuts

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

THREATS of sackings and cuts on bus routes are being issued in Leeds by FirstBus, one of the country's largest private bus operators, because its profits are not high enough.

The company, which runs the Leeds City Link, says that the enterprise needs to achieve a minimum profit of 18.5 per cent for 1995/96 but is 7.1 per cent short of its target. It is therefore looking at reducing the size of the business and not operating some of the less profitable routes.

In a letter to the unions, Ray O'Toole, City Link's managing director, says that another method would be to sack 150 drivers and reduce pay. The letter was obtained yesterday by Derek Fatchett, Labour MP for Leeds Central.

Mr Fatchett said last night that he was worried about the implications for public transport throughout the country, because FirstBus was also interested in the railway industry. "This is a real warning about the way in which these companies would operate if they got their hands on the rail network."

He said: "FirstBus is a company cherry-picking the highly profitable routes with no regard for the social importance of bus services. We will now have Victorian working conditions imposed on employees and a substantial reduction in services for passengers."

Mr O'Toole says that it must make a minimum profit to replace assets. The original plan was for profit of 14.1 per cent, but this was "significantly offset" by a £1.25 million fall in revenue.

FirstBus has emerged as a key player since the bus industry was deregulated. It was formed earlier this year, following a merger of Badgerline and the Aberdeen-based GRT Bus Group.

News in brief

Hanson cements £72m Bardon deal

HANSON spent £72 million yesterday on consolidating its position as Europe's leading producer of sea-dredged sand and gravel. Its Southampton-based ARC subsidiary is buying the marine aggregates operations of Bardon, a quarry and concrete company. ARC chairman David Snowdon said the purchase of the Civil and Marine company (C&M) was an important move which increased its presence in Europe, where it already traded at 12 ports, and gave it a firm footing in the important Thames market. — *Tony May*

Chemicals squeeze Shell

A WARNING about profit margins in its chemicals business overshadowed higher third-quarter profits yesterday at the oil company Shell. Shares fell 16p to close at 729p despite a 16 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £1.96 billion at the Royal Dutch/Shell Group. Income after tax and other minority interests was 29 per cent up on the same period a year ago, at £1.05 billion.

In a separate move, BP is to sell its refining and marketing interests in the North-east of America to the Tosco Corporation for $235 million (£149 million), plus a share of future profits over five years capped at $50 million in total. The company will take a $385 million charge in the third-quarter results to cover losses and liabilities associated with the sale. — *Chris Barrie*

Global insurance network

THE world's six largest insurance brokers are to establish a global electronic network intended to allow all industry players to exchange information and documents. The service, connecting brokers and insurance companies worldwide, will be operated by a newly formed company, the World Insurance Network, owned equally by Alexander & Alexander, Aon, Johnson & Higgins, Marsh & McLennan, Sedgwick, and Willis Corroon. The move is part of a trend within the insurance industry towards electronic systems to streamline the handling of information and cut costs. The network starts next year. — *Pauline Springett*

Change at top of Barings

DUTCH conglomerate ING announced new blood at the top of Barings which it bought after it crashed earlier this year following trader Nick Leeson's huge losses on the Far East futures market. Shortly afterwards, some 20 senior Barings executives resigned. Peter Bennett, formerly of UBS, is to be global chief operating officer and a managing director of ING Barings. John Thirlwell, formerly of NatWest Markets, has been appointed chief financial officer from November 20. — *Pauline Springett*

Nissan back in black

NISSAN, Japan's second-biggest carmaker, reported its first operating profits for four years. The company said the 5.12 billion yen (£32 million) profit in the six months to September, against an operating loss of 82.6 billion yen in the same period last year, was achieved through higher sales and lower costs. — *Kevin Rafferty in Tokyo*

North West Water green light

NORTH West Water's bid for the regional electricity company Norweb was given the go-ahead last night by the Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Lang. Mr Lang rejected advice — for the first time — from the recently appointed director general of fair trading, John Bridgeman, to refer the takeover to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The electricity and water industry watchdogs had recommended that the bid be waved through so long as licence amendments were agreed to safeguard competition and regulation. NWW welcomed the decision, saying it had so far received acceptances representing 45 per cent of Norweb shares.

City anti-fraud campaign

CITY of London police yesterday launched an anti-fraud campaign, aimed at persuading City firms to take the risk of fraud more seriously. Commissioner William Taylor said London's status as a leading financial centre made it a target for fraudsters. The campaign has been developed in conjunction with the accountancy firm, Coopers & Lybrand. — *Roger Cowe*

Boots concocts right chemistry to counter the supermarkets

Outlook/ As usual one chain has had to do it all in group profit terms, writes **Roger Cowe**

THE long, hot summer was as mixed a blessing for Boots as it was for its customers. The sun boosted sales of Soltan and hay fever products at Boots the Chemist, which made hay with sales and profit increases in the first half.

But most of the other retail businesses wilted in the heat as cloudless days drove clients from the shops. Nor were there any green shoots of recovery at Do It All (the joint venture with WH Smith), Fads and, to a lesser extent, Childrens World.

Chief executive Lord Blyth was his usual confident self, however. He dismissed fears about the potential free-for-all in non-prescription drugs. If the Office of Fair Trading recommends an end to this last bastion of retail price maintenance, which is under siege from Asda.

Boots agrees with most pharmacists that local chemists are an important community service, and the end of fat profit margins on non-prescription products would see that service slashed. "We happen to think that the arguments which applied 25 years ago when retail price maintenance was preserved remain valid," Lord Blyth said.

But he insisted Boots was not quaking at the prospect of the OFT opening the way for fierce price competition from the supermarket chains. Such products account for only about an eighth of sales in the chain, and a quarter of those are its own brands.

Above all, in the last few years Boots has disproved the theory that, given a free hand, the supermarkets will sweep all before them. For example, last week's hyperactivity on the vitamin front, when Asda and Sainsbury cut prices, was accompanied by record vitamin sales for Boots. Likewise, it has fought off attacks on its perfume business and sun cream in the past couple of years, and emerged with higher market shares.

It is hard to believe Boots can continue to escape the impact of supermarket expansion that has befallen other high street chains like Woolworth and WH Smith. But if it can, the reason could be the strength of its brands, including the own-label products which are such a powerful ingredient of supermarket success.

More than a third of the chain's sales, and probably two-fifths of its profits, come from cosmetics and toiletries. This includes the grand brands such as Clinique, Estée Lauder and Lancome, but also Boots' own No7, relaunched this year to a 17 per cent increase in sales and accounting for a tenth of the market. Likewise, Boots' Soltan is a market leader in sun products, and the group has shown with its Body Shop-style Natural Collection that it can copy as well as innovate.

Boots also claimed yesterday that it gains an advantage from the "vertical integration" with its product-development and manufacturing arms (which, together with property management, constitute the non-retail businesses shown in the chart).

This may be so, although the supermarkets have shown that it is not necessary to own production in order to develop innovative products. But the group stands to gain immediate financial benefit from focusing its development effort on fewer, more innovative products.

If Boots the Chemist ever does run out of steam, the group will be in big trouble, because it still makes the bulk of profits. Most of the non-retail profit shown in the chart came from property, and there was no profit in the half-year from the collection of other retail businesses.

Halfords "demonstrated considerable resilience", Lord Blyth said — that is, its profits fell. Do It All, on the other hand, "did what we have come to expect" — that is, it lost even more money and there is no prospect of much improvement unless there is another housing boom. The same applies to Fads, which is steadily shrinking, while Childrens World toddles along without losing much money, but without making much either.

If these other formats ever do come right, though, their expansion will provide a destination for Boots' cash, which will continue to slosh around in the absence of the longed-for continental healthcare acquisition.

Company: BOOTS

Stock market value: £5bn
Workforce: 75,000
Interest cover: 9 Dividend cover: 2.8

Half year	This time	Last time	%
Sales (£m)	1,939	2,042	-5
Pre-tax profits (£m)	228	290	-21
Earnings per share (p)	15.9	20.2	-21
Dividend per share (p)	5.7	5.35	7

Chemists power ahead while the rest struggle

Wm Baird restructuring will cost up to 600 jobs at clothing plants

Pauline Springett

CLOTHING manufacturer William Baird is to axe up to 600 jobs from its workforce of 16,000 in a restructuring programme to take place during 1995 and 1996 — an even more radical cut than envisaged earlier this week when it emerged that the company was to shed 290 jobs at its factory in Hartlepool, Cleveland.

Under the plan, unveiled yesterday and largely prompted by cheaper, high-quality imports, 130 jobs will be lost with the closure of the colour woven-fabrics operation in Lancashire and a new owner will take on Baird's childrenswear factory in Nantwich, Cheshire, together with 200 jobs.

The marketing, garment processing and distribution facilities are also to be rationalised, although this will not affect jobs. A factory in Dunstable is also to close, with the possible loss of 150 jobs — although a new owner is being sought.

Jock Green-Armytage, chief executive, said: "This is not a knee-jerk reaction to any specific event. We hope to keep job losses to a minimum, but it is necessary to safeguard the rest of our very large work force."

He added that the aim was to concentrate on the core activities of producing own-brand clothes under labels such as Windsmoor and Damimac, as well as the production of contract clothes for retailers such as Marks & Spencer and Next.

Mr Green-Armytage said the restructuring would result in an exceptional charge of £9.8 million this year, including £6.9 million in redundancy costs, but he expected to recover these costs during 1996 and 1997. The company expects to save at least £3 million in the first transitional year.

FREE Classic pen when you receive a quotation

45 or over?
Pay less for *better* home *protection*
or we pay you!

Advantage45 is a new kind of household insurance offering better cover at lower cost – but only for people aged 45 or over. Because they make fewer claims, we can provide much more cover for much smaller premiums. In fact, we are so confident about its value, if you take out an Advantage45 policy and discover the same cover elsewhere for less – we will pay you the difference![1]

Advantage45 gives you all the cover you need for home contents or buildings, or both. And you can choose Advantage Plus to cover accidental damage, and protect personal possessions away from home.

And Advantage45 puts our experts on call for queries and claims, 24 hours a day. If it is an emergency, they can even arrange for repairs to be made by trustworthy tradesmen and settle the bill directly.

All we need to know is where you live and a little about your home. For your free quote, call us free on 0500 000 810, or complete and return the coupon.

DOES YOUR CURRENT INSURANCE OFFER YOU ALL THIS?
- Up to £50,000 automatic cover for contents
- Up to £500,000 automatic cover for buildings
- 24 hour helpline for claims and emergencies
- No Claims Bonus up to 20%
- Easy to arrange buildings or contents cover
- And all at exceptionally low premiums!

FOR A QUOTATION PHONE FREE
0500 000 810
stating reference P153.
8AM TO 8PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9AM TO 1PM SATURDAY
[1]Full details available on request.
UK MAINLAND ONLY

REQUEST FOR A QUOTATION

Please complete and post to: Landmark Express Advantage45, FREEPOST NH 00 28, Northampton NN4 7BR.

Title
Surname
Forename
Address of Property to be insured
Postcode
Your Daytime Telephone No
Your Evening Telephone No
Your Date of Birth / /
Renewal date of current policy
Contents / /
Buildings / /

1. Are you or your residential partner aged 45 or over? yes ☐ no ☐
2. Is the home your own main residence, not let to tenants and not used for business (other than clerical work)? yes ☐ no ☐
3. Are the main buildings of your home built of brick, stone or concrete and roofed with slates, tiles, metal, asphalt or concrete? yes ☐ no ☐
4. Is your home free from and in an area normally free from subsidence, ground heave and landslip? yes ☐ no ☐
5. Cover Required
buildings ☐ contents ☐ contents plus cover ☐
6. Property Type
semi-detached bungalow ☐ detached bungalow ☐ terraced ☐
semi-detached house ☐ detached house ☐ self-contained flat* ☐
Is the property listed?* yes ☐ no* ☐
7. Date Built / /
8. How many bedrooms do you have? (maximum of 5) ☐
*Contents cover only available for listed buildings and self contained flats
For Office Use only Q ☐ D ☐ M ☐ QTE ☐

LANDMARK EXPRESS
P153

The Direct Insurance Division of Landmark Insurance Company Limited.
PO Box 252, Northampton NN4 7DH. Registered in England No. 2[illegible]. Registered Office 300 Pavilion Drive, Northampton Business Park, Northampton NN4 7YE.

DEFEATS FOR EVERTON AND CELTIC COMPLETE DISASTROUS WEEK IN EUROPE

European Cup Winners' Cup, second round, second leg: Feyenoord 1, Everton 0 (agg: 1–0)

Blinker blocks Blues vision

Ian Ross in Rotterdam

BRITISH football's miserable week of unfulfilled promise and shattered dreams is now complete. While deserving a far better fate, Everton became nothing more than another depressing statistic here, eliminated by opponents of no great expertise whom they knew they should have beaten.

This was not the Merseysiders' night, confirmed as the tie drifted into added time when Craig Short was dismissed for a rather foolish lunge at Ronald Koeman.

In the absence of so many — the sick, the ineligible, the incarcerated — the responsibility for safeguarding Everton's unheralded 16-year unbeaten record in the European arena lay with men whose long-term future at a club in the throes of transition is at best uncertain.

But, as they proved in the final quarter of last season while perched on the edge of an abyss, Everton's journeymen can be formidable opponents indeed, when the mood takes them.

The opening exchanges held very little for either side. Everton's backline easily ensnared those Feyenoord players brave enough to venture forward and once a partisan audience had fallen silent — a surprisingly early development — the last vestiges of Everton's initial hesitancy were swept away.

Here was a game they could win — or so they thought. Despite their unnecessary caution, Feyenoord's football often held promise, it was simply their reluctance to sustain pressure that will have confused any neutrals present.

Before the Dutch claimed the decisive goal Everton had enjoyed the better of it. Their movement and passing was impressive and by inviting Daniel Amokachi to run directly at the heart of a defence which had proved to be somewhat less than mobile in the first meeting of the clubs, their was genuine cause for optimism.

Unfortunately, the best chances were to fall to the feet of Graham Stuart, a peripheral figure who too often surrenders responsibility. By passing the parcel instead of opening it, Stuart was often guilty of spoiling the party. Barry Horne orchestrated from midfield with patience and style and it was a unfortunate that such seemingly harmless indiscretions decide matches of this kind.

Even so, Everton had looked so at ease with themselves that their dismay at needlessly conceding a goal six minutes before the half-time interval was understandable.

It was a simple, almost forgivable, lapse in concentration, no more. In his haste to sweep clear after Mike Obiku's shot had cannoned back into play off the foot of a post, John Ebbrell miscued completely.

It fell sweetly for Regi Blinker, the celebrated Dutch international winger, and prospective target for Blackburn Rovers. Blinker strolled forwards before planting a fearsome shot beyond the unprotected Neville Southall.

Everton's night had not begun well. A few hours before kick-off Joe Royle had learned that, once again, his attempts to bolster his senior squad had ended in failure.

Like his predecessor, Mike Walker, Royle is beginninjg to discover that a wealthy benefactor cannot guarantee fulfilment.

On this occcasion Royle was thwarted by unfortunate circumstances. The Sheffield Wednesday striker David Hirst was declared medically unfit to complete a transfer across the Pennines which would have rejuvenated a career effectively in free fall.

But for a series of operations, the former England international would have moved to Goodison Park in a £2.2 million package deal that would have seen the Everton full-back Matt Jackson cross to Hillsborough.

It was not Hirst's night; it was not Everton's night.

Feyenoord: De Goey; Van Gobbel, Koeman, Heus, Boateng, Iwan, Bosz, Trustfull (Zwijnenberg, 71min), Blinker (Witschge, 83), Larsson (Maas, 61), Obiku.
Everton: Southall; Jackson, Short, Watson, Ablett (Barlow, 66), Stuart, Ebbrell (Grant, 63), Horne, Hinchcliffe, Rideout, Amokachi.
Referee: M Nicchi (Italy).

Blue jumper ... Everton's Daniel Amokachi takes to the air in an attempt to get past Feyenoord's Ruud Heus last night PHOTOGRAPH: ANDY HEADING

Journeymen who travelled without hope

David Lacey on how Blackburn let the side down

ANOTHER night in the Champions' League, another nadir for British football. On Wednesday Blackburn Rovers and Rangers effectively lost their European deposits.

Rangers' hopes of making the knock-out stage of the European Cup are on a life-support system after another lesson in modern footballing calisthenics from Juventus. At Blackburn life was pronounced extinct when Alan Shearer failed to beat the Legia Warsaw goalkeeper from five yards' range in the last minute, leaving England's representatives to complete their remaining two Champions' League fixtures — against Spartak Moscow and Rosenborg Trondheim — from a horizontal position.

Thus, for the fifth season running, the nation which held Europe's most prestigious trophy from 1977 to 1982 and won it again in 1984 has seen its champions humiliated. Each humiliation, moreover, has been suffered against a background of mounting ineptitude.

Learning nothing, surprised by everything, Blackburn have scored one goal and gained one point after playing four fixtures in the easiest of the four Champions' League groups. At least Rangers can argue, in mitigation, that a draw which confronted them with Juventus and Borussia Dortmund was never going to enhance their prospects.

The Scots, moreover, can claim some sort of Champions' League track record. After knocking out Leeds United in 1992-93 they cobbled together some respectable results against Marseille and Club Brugge, came within a whisker of reaching the final, and retired unbeaten.

England's champions have achieved nothing to compare with this since the post-Heysel ban was lifted. Leeds's recovery against Stuttgart, whom they beat 4–1 at Elland Road after losing the away leg 3–0 before winning the replay ordered by Uefa because the Germans had fielded too many foreigners, remains the most stirring memory.

After Benfica's exposure of Arsenal's limitations, and Manchester United's naive performances against Galatasaray, Barcelona and IFK Gothenburg, perhaps the demise of Blackburn, whose previous experience in Europe had been limited to two Uefa Cup encounters with Trelleborg tradesmen, should not have been that startling even though they were largely unaffected by the rule restricting foreigners.

In fact by the way they went about it failure became a self-fulfilling prophesy. Amid the ritual breast-beating that has followed another moribund week for England in Europe, and the legitimate but vague calls for coaching to be revolutionised from the age of six upwards, the fundamental importance of getting organised for the Champions' League has been overlooked.

Blackburn went into the tournament with their manager Ray Harford saying they were infants in Europe who could not be expected to conform to European ways. To the extent that Blackburn needed to play to recognised strengths without trying to achieve some half-baked imitation of Continental styles he was right.

But where was Kenny Dalglish's European experience when it was needed most? Why the uncertainty over whether or not Lars Bohinen, having played for Nottingham Forest in the Uefa Cup, would be eligible for Blackburn in the quarter-finals of the European Cup? In fact he was not.

Initially at any rate, there appeared to be some vagueness about the Champions' League rules regarding clubs finishing with equal points. The half-heartedness of Blackburn's approach to the Champions' League has done English football a poor service in Europe, where thoroughness of preparation is vital. After all, English coaching had its limitations when Liverpool (four times), Nottingham Forest (twice) and Aston Villa were winning the European Cup in the Seventies and Eighties.

That said, the way the Champions' League is programmed makes it much harder now for an English side to reach the quarter-finals, given the busy domestic programme. Even Liverpool might not have been so successful under a similar system.

Next season, whether England's representatives are Newcastle United, Manchester United, Liverpool or Arsenal, the best one can hope for is that they will keep up appearances, at least until the Champions' League has run its full course. Anything more will be a bonus.

Harford ... pragmatic

Celtic 0, Paris St Germain 3 (agg: 0–4)

Loko motion leaves Scots waiting for next year

Patrick Glenn

CELTIC's long-held ambition of matching Rangers was achieved last night when they, too, were humiliated by the tourists from the Continent. Loko, cobra-quick and just as dangerous, was plunderer-in-chief with a first-half double which was complemented by the 10-yard drive from the substitute Nouma midway through the second half.

The old jibes about Scottish goalkeepers, which seemed to have been removed from the joke books by the exploits of Goram and Leighton, made a shocking comeback when Marshall gifted the French the first of their goals.

Neat play between Fournier and Loko led to a low drive from Fournier which Marshall seemed comfortably to have as he fell to his right. But the goalkeeper not only failed to hold the ball but pushed it several yards away straight towards Loko, who drilled it in from around the penalty spot.

That 36th-minute strike was merely an appetiser for the French, who added another from Loko six minutes later. Guérin supplied him with a powerful cross from the right, which Loko turned in from six yards.

Even before the goals PSG had looked much more cohesive than the shapeless Celtic. The Scots were not helped by Van Hooijdonk in the front line. He repeatedly lumbered into opponents in trying to reach promising passes from McKinlay, McStay and Collins.

On the rare occasions when Celtic created space near goal Van Hooijdonk tended to finish runner-up in the race for the ball with an opponent. Celtic's only real chance of the first half was Walker's header from Vata's centre from the right; and Lama pushed the ball wide.

With the introduction of Donnelly for Vata at half-time, Celtic adopted a 4-2-4 formation which would have been suicidal were they not already nine-tenths dead. Thom and Donnelly moved into the forward line along with Walker and Van Hooijdonk, although the Dutchman was replaced by McLaughlin after 62 minutes.

Van Hooijdonk signed off with a rasping drive but it was Donnelly and Thom who created most bother. Donnelly's powerful run in from the right ended with the cut-back to Walker, whose shot was blocked. Donnelly's follow-up was deflected before the French defence cleared.

Then Thom, fed by Collins, had a fierce drive turned away by Lama, diving full-length to his left. That little purple patch at least signalled Celtic's willingness to fight.

Celtic: Marshall; Boyd, McKinlay, Vata (Donnelly, h-t), Hughes, Grant, Thom, McStay, Van Hooijdonk (McLaughlin, 62min), Walker, Collins.
Paris St Germain: Lama; Cobos, Colleter, Mahé, Le Guen, Djorkaeff, Bravo, Guérin, Fournier, Rai, Loko.
Referee: K Rothlisberger (Switzerland).

Roasted Rangers can still qualify

IMPROBABLE as it may seem, Walter Smith's acceptance of the inevitablity of Rangers' eviction from the Champions' League is slightly premature, *writes Patrick Glenn*.

The Ibrox manager understandably found it impossible to discuss the prospect of his team's qualifying from Group C in the immediate aftermath of a second thrashing in two weeks from Juventus.

Embarrassment and a quasi-claustrophobic, just-let-me-out-of-here urge were doubtless at the core of Smith's resigned shrug when pressed on the subject.

But there is a ray of hope. Rangers are four points behind the second-placed club, Borussia Dortmund, with two matches remaining. Victory over Steaua Bucharest at Ibrox on November 22, with the Germans failing to beat Juventus in Turin the same night would leave the Scottish champions having to win in Dortmund on December 6. Given the ordinary form Borussia have show so far, it is not an impossible target.

Any prognosis, of course, has to include the possibility of Juventus easing off in their remaining two matches, now that they are officially the group winners. Even the lure of £500,000 for a victory — with half of that for a draw — is unlikely to encourage risk-taking by a team that has much ground to recover in *Serie A*.

There are also Rangers' own problems with personnel. The hip injury to the goalkeeper Andy Goram — he could be out for a fortnight and may miss Scotland's European Championship qualifying match against San Marino on November 15 — will be as significant as any.

His deputy Billy Thomson is nearly 38 and spends most of his time on the subsitutes' bench, dangerously short of first-team match practice. His rustiness showed in the closing stages against Juventus on Wednesday.

But if things seemed to be as black as it can get the other night, the Rangers management and their support may draw encouragement from the old maxim that the darkest hour is just before dawn.

Sport in brief

Hockey

Two goals by Britain's youngest player, 19-year-old Anna Bennett of Slough, ensured the hosts beat Russia 4-1 in the last of their three Tests at Bisham Abbey, *writes Pat Rowley*. Her first goals for Britain ensured they took the series 3–0.

Sue MacDonald and Jane Sixsmith scored Britain's other goals with Irana Peskunova snatching Russia's only goal of the series. Britain, who depart for the Olympic Qualifying tournament in Cape Town on Sunday, will leave having scored 19 goals in their last five internationals.

Table Tennis

Chen Xinhua has been nominated as an automatic choice to represent Great Britain at next year's Olympics, *writes Richard Jago*.

Chen, a former World Cup winner who will be 36 next summer, will make his debut at the Games although he was eligible to represent Britain at Barcelona in 1992. However, China exercised a right of veto which entitled it to have first call on the player for the first six years after his move to England.

Squash

Ross Norman, the man who created the greatest upset in the history of the game, is retiring at the age of 37, *writes Richard Jago*. The New Zealander has tendinitis in the arm, bringing to an end a top-class career lasting 20 years and which in 1986 saw him win the World Open title. He did so with an astonishing victory in Toulouse over Jahangir Khan, the Pakistani who had been unbeaten for five years and seven months.

Results

Soccer

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP
Second round, second leg

Celtic (0) 0	Paris SG (2) 3
34,822	Loko 36, 42
(agg: 0–4)	Nouma 68
Feyenoord (1) 1	Everton (0) 0
Blinker 40	40,000
(agg: 1–0)	

Hradec Kralove 1, Dynamo Moscow 0 (agg: 1–1; Dynamo won 3–1 on pens); Club Brugge 0, Real Zaragoza 1 (1–3); AEK Athens 0, Borussia Moenchengladbach 1 (1–5); Parma 4, Halmstadt 0 (4–3).

PONTINS LEAGUE: First: Stoke 3, Tranmere 3. **Second:** Bradford C 0, Burnley 3. **Third:** Doncaster 3, Bury 0.

TRANSFERS: Gareth Ainsworth, Preston to Lincoln; Jonathan Whitney, Huddersfield to Lincoln. **Temporary:** Phil Clarkson, Crewe to Scunthorpe; Carl Muggleton, Stoke to Rotherham, Simon Tracey, Sheff Utd to Wimbledon.

Golf

ALFRED DUNHILL MASTERS (Jakarta): **First round** (GB/Ire unless stated): **66** M Gronberg (Swe); P Gow (Aus); C Parry (Aus). **67** I Woosnam; D Podlich (Aus). **Also: 69** S Owen (NZ); M Campbell (NZ). **70** M Mouland; J Van de Velde (Fr). **72** V Singh (Fiji); A Cejka (Ger); W Grady (Aus). **73** I Baker-Finch (Aus). **75** S Struver (Ger). **76** R Muntz (Neth). **77** B Jackson.

DAIWA INTERNATIONAL (Tokyo): **First round** (Japanese unless stated): **66** S Okuda. **67** S Maruyama. **69** K Takami. **70** S Yokota; T Nakamura; D Ishii (US). **Also: 72** R Boxall (GB).

Tennis

PARIS OPEN: Third round: J Courier (US) bt M Larsson (Swe) 6-3, 6-4; **M Chang** (US) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 2-6, 6-3, 7-6; **R Krajicek** (Neth) bt P Haarhuis (Neth) 6-4, 6-2; **D Vacek** (Cz) bt G Forget (Fr) 5-2 (Forget withdrew with injury). **J Hlasek** (Switz) bt M Rosset (Switz) 2-6, 7-6, 7-6; **W Ferreira** (SA) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-2, 3-6, 7-6; **B Becker** (Ger) bt T Martin (US) 6-4, 4-6, 7-6.

BELL CHALLENGE WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Quebec City): **First round: B Schultz-McCarthy** (Neth) bt J Nejedly (Can) 1-6, 6-2, 6-4. **Second round: A Coetzer** (SA) bt S Stafford (US) 6-1, 2-6, 6-4. **D Monami** (Bel) bt I Gorrochategui (Arg) 6-3, 6-2; **L Courtois** (Bel) bt R Simpson (Can) 6-4, 6-3.

BANK OF THE WEST CLASSIC (Oakland, Calif): **Second round: M Maleeva** (Bul) bt L McNeil (US) 6-1, 6-4; **M-J Fernandez** (US) bt C Singer (Ger) 6-0, 6-3; **V Williams** (US) bt A Frazier (US) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; **H Sukova** (Cz) bt K Po (US) 5-7, 7-6, 6-2; **Z Garrison-Jackson** (US) bt K Adams (US) 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

BRITISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Telford): **Men: Second round: J Delgado** (War) bt D Sanders (Som) 6-1, 6-4; **T Henman** (Oxon) bt A Richardson (Lincs) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; **B Cowan** (Lancs) bt M Wyeth (Surrey) 6-1, 6-1; **J Bates** (Surrey) bt N Gould (Avon) 6-3, 7-6.

Women: Quarter-finals: J Durie (Avon) bt A Wainwright (Essex) 6-2, 6-3; **A Jones** (Essex) bt K Cross (Devon) 6-3, 7-5; **S Smith** (Essex) bt E Jelfs (Oxon) 6-2, 7-5; **C Wood** (Sussex) bt J Choudhury (Camb) 6-1, 6-3.

Cricket

TOUR MATCHES: Adelaide: South Australia 282-4 (D Lehmann 108no) v Pakistan. **Hyderabad:** New Zealand 367-3 (R Twose 119 ret, M Crowe 110, S Fleming 50no) v India Colts.

Ice Hockey

NHL: Pittsburgh 10, Tampa Bay 0; Buffalo 2, Detroit 1; Washington 5, Montreal 2; Dallas 1, Chicago 1 (ot); Winnipeg 2, Toronto 4; Colorado 6, Calgary 1; Anaheim 3, St Louis 0; Vancouver 3, Edmonton 3 (ot).

Hockey

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONALS: Bisham: Third Test: Great Britain 4, Russia 1 (GB win series 3–0). **The Hague:** Netherlands 1, Germany 0.

SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP (Kuala Lumpur): Germany 1, Spain 0; New Zealand 4, Canada 3. **Standings:** 1, Germany (P4, Pts7); 2, India (4–5); 3, Canada (4–4); 4, Malaysia (4–3), 5, Spain (4–3); 6, New Zealand (4–2).

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated)

Soccer

ICIS LEAGUE: Second Division: Leatherhead v Banstead Ath.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First Division: Chester Le Street v Durham C.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Frome Tn v Chippenham Tn.

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier Division: Bohemians v Shamrock Rvrs (7.45); Drogheda Utd v Sligo Rvrs (7.45); St Patricks Ath v Shelbourne (7.45).

Rugby League

STONES CENTENARY CHAMPIONSHIP: Leeds v Wigan.

Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Hemel Hempstead v Sheffield (8.0); London v Doncaster (8.0); Newcastle v Birmingham (8.0); Thames Valley v Worthing (8.0).

Cricket

TOUR MATCH (5.0, one day): **Thatta:** Pakistan Cricket Board XI v England A.

● Eamonn Loughran's postponed WBO welterweight title defence against Mexico's Jorge Luis Lopez is now unlikely to take place until the New Year. The Irishman yesterday pulled out of the November 25 bout. He has been suffering from flu and a damaged right hand since making his last defence early last month.

● Two Formula One drivers who feared they had provided positive dope tests after taking cold medicines were yesterday given the all-clear. The Brazilian Rubens Barrichello, of Jordan Peugeot, and Italy's Max Papis, who drives for Footwork Hart, were tested at the European Grand Prix in Germany at the end of September.

Hughes snubs Gould

Martin Thorpe on the Wales striker's refusal to travel with the squad to Albania

MARK HUGHES has cast the first shadow over Bobby Gould's bright start as Wales manager by refusing to travel with the squad to Albania after being dropped from the team to play in the final European Championship Group Seven qualifying game on November 15.

Gould has also enhanced his reputation as a maverick by dropping the 72-cap Ian Rush. Hughes's international striking partner over the past decade, though the Liverpool player will be going with the party to Tirana.

Gould has kept faith with the team that played so well against Germany in October when Hughes and Rush were both injured, their places going to Dean Saunders and Ryan Giggs.

But Hughes is obviously peeved at not returning to the side immediately, and his refusal to travel adds to a feeling that he is not one of Gould's biggest fans. Hughes largely shuns the banter and joking that Gould uses during training and it is understood the 58-cap striker also has qualms about the way some of Gould's league teams played.

But yesterday Gould was denying a feud. "I have explained everything to Mark and there is no confrontation whatsoever," he said. "Mark told me he was disappointed not to be in the side but also said he was well aware there is plenty of competition for places. I invited him to come with the party, but he felt it was not the right thing to do."

Gould went out of his way to stress that Hughes — 32 the day before yesterday — has not played his last game for Wales. "Mark will never be ruled out of consideration for any side I select," he said.

Gould's dilemma is understandable. Although his patched-up side was beaten 2–1 by Germany in Cardiff, it was probably Wales most impressive performance since they defeated Belgium 2–0 two years ago. "I decided that if I had been one of the players involved in the game against Germany and not been selected for this match I would have been very disappointed," said Gould.

Wales will take their own chefs, food and water to Albania for the match between two teams who long ago blew their chances of qualifying for Euro '96.

WALES: Southall (Everton); **Melville** (Sunderland), **Symons** (Manchester City), **Jenkins** (Swansea), **Bowen** (Norwich), **Blake** (Sheffield United), **Horne** (Everton), **Pembridge** (Sheffield Wed), **Speed** (Leeds), **Saunders** (Galatasaray), **Giggs** (Manchester United). **Also travelling: Coyne** (Tranmere), **Marriott** (Wrexham), **G Williams** (Ipswich), **Hodges** (Sheffield United), **A Williams** (Reading), **Coleman** (C Palace), **Mardon** (West Bromwich), **C Hughes** (Luton), **Phillips** (Nottingham Forest), **Taylor** (C Palace), **Hartson** (Arsenal), **Rush** (Liverpool).

FA calls summit on clubs' European failure

REAGAN and Gorby did it years ago, Major and Chirac have just finished one and now the FA is following suit by calling a summit conference of the great powers of English football to work out exactly why Premiership clubs have flopped in Europe this season, *writes Chris Curtain*.

The managers of the six domestic clubs involved in European competitions this season — Blackburn, Everton, Manchester United, Liverpool, Nottingham Forest and Leeds — are to receive a joint invitation from the England coach Terry Venables and the FA chief Graham Kelly to the pow-pow, which is likely to be held within the next few weeks.

Venables said: "Our aim has to be first to catch up and then to overtake rival nations as quickly as possible. It's important to monitor and pool all the experiences our clubs have had — good or bad."

Kelly added: "No one can dispute we have been under-performing in Europe in recent seasons and everything we can do to improve the situation, we must do.

"We are already addressing the problems we believe exist at the grass roots. That process is continuing."

Despite the week's disappointments, the FA has been heartened by impressive performances from England's youth teams. The Under-16 boys recently beat Belgium 1-0 away and Sweden 5–0 away, both in games to qualify for the final stages of the Under-16 European Championships.

Robert Fleck has been fined £1,000 and warned about his future conduct after being found guilty of misconduct by the FA, whose costs he was also ordered to pay. The Norwich striker verbally abused an official after being substituted in Norwich's league match at Sheffield United on September 9.

West Ham's chief scout Ronnie Boyce, who scored for the Hammers' in the 1965 European Cup Winners' Cup final against Munich 1860, has left the club after 35 years.

● Middlesbrough's £4.75 million Brazilian Juninho finally received his international clearance yesterday and will start his Premier League career against Leeds on Saturday at the Teesside club's new 30,000-capacity Riverside Stadium.

Boxing

Thumbs up for Lewis

Kevin Mitchell in Las Vegas on a roll of match-making dice

LENNOX LEWIS has stolen a march on Frank Bruno in the continually shifting heavyweight picture.

When Mike Tyson went thumbs down and belly up on Wednesday he not only put in jeopardy a fight against Bruno on March 16, but he created enough chaos to allow Lewis space to manoeuvre his way into the vacuum.

Lewis, the former World Boxing Council champion who arrives today to commentate on tomorrow night's fight between Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield at Caesars Palace, has the very strong prospect of meeting the winner in a bout next year that would take the spotlight away from Tyson and Bruno.

The preferred option would be a fight against Bowe, bringing together two boxers whose animosity goes back to the Seoul Olympics, when Lewis won the super-heavyweight title for Canada, putting the more fancied American out in the process.

Tomorrow night they will have a unique opportunity to share their opinions of each other when Lewis acts as a pre-fight commentator in Bowe's dressing room for the cable television company Home Box Office.

It will be the first time since 1988 that they have had a face-to-face confrontation, at least away from the hoopla that constitutes press conferences and other shenanigans in the business.

Bowe famously ditched his world-title belt in a dustbin, from where it was metaphorically lifted by Lewis, who then went on to defend it before surrendering the title to Oliver McCall last year.

"We are definitely looking to Lewis as the next opponent of the winner of tomorrow's fight," said Seth Abraham, the power-broker for HBO and a man who has spent much of his working life dealing with Don King. "Holyfield has already agreed to that, if he wins, and Bowe says he is willing to discuss it on Sunday morning."

For this bout, which has no title at stake but is widely and rightly regarded as an unofficial world heavyweight championship, all the signs say that Bowe will win. This is the third meeting between Holyfield and Bowe and they share one win apiece.

Dwight Muhammad Qawi, who had two epic fights with Holyfield at cruiserweight, said: "He has reached the peak and is just going over the edge."

This is a view shared by Emanuel Steward, Holyfield's former trainer, who said: "After 11 years as a professional and all those amateur fights, Evander's best days are behind him."

Lloyd Honeyghan, the former world welterweight champion from London, who spends much of his time here now, bucked the trend: "I'm going for Holyfield. I have seen Bowe sparring and I just don't think he's fit. He is getting hit too often in the gym by very ordinary fighters and that is not a good sign.

"Either he doesn't really care, which would not surprise me, or he has lost it. Fitness is always the key and the one thing you have to say about Holyfield is that he is always committed.

"If he were just having an ordinary fight he would train just as hard. But he is up for this one and he knows he hasn't got long left."

Shifting sands . . . the field for yesterday's Dick and Denyse Myson Anniversary Handicap making impressions on Lingfield's all-weather track PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Racing

Seekin Cash will be chasing riches

Ron Cox gives Ten To Follow for the jump season which begins in earnest next week

ADMIRAL'S WELL: Absent all last jumps season and has returned well handicapped over hurdles following a good spell in top stayers' races on the Flat. Will improve on his recent Ascot win given a stiffer test of stamina or faster-run race. (R Akehurst).

CONQUERING LEADER: Quietly fancied for tomorrow's Tote Silver Trophy Hurdle at Chepstow, this useful mare should continue to pay her way over the minor obstacles before switching to fences. (N Henderson).

COULTON: Unfairly burdened with the "next Desert Orchid" tag in his days with Mick Easterby. Coulton is really getting his act together over fences now and turned in another polished display when trotting up at Wincanton last month. The Gold Cup trip may be stretching his stamina, but the King George at Kempton looks a distinct possibility. (O Sherwood).

EASY BUCK: Won twice at Warwick last season, but was never quite at his best and a change of stables could work wonders for this former Nick Gaselee-trained handicapper. Interestingly, he has been backed at long odds for next week's Mackeson Gold Cup. (N Twiston-Davies).

HILL OF TULLOW: From a stable with great strength-in-depth amongst its novice chasers, this Irish import is rated one of his trainer's most exciting prospects. Won a bumper and three hurdle races from eight starts last season on ground ranging from firm to heavy. (D Nicholson).

INCHCAILLOCH: Progressed steadily over hurdles last season and has continued his improvement on the Flat, winning twice and finishing a close fourth in last month's Cesarewitch Handicap. It may be some time before the hurdles handicapper gets to grips with this versatile performer. (J King).

SCOTTON BANKS: Granted a proper test of stamina there is a good handicap to be won with this Le Moss gelding. Won five chases last season, but resumes on a fair handicap mark. (M H Easterby).

SEEKIN CASH: The top staying novice hurdler two seasons ago when, trained by Charles Egerton, he accounted for Relkeel at Huntingdon. Seekin Cash missed the whole of last campaign but is reported in great shape for what should be a lucrative spell over fences. (K Bailey).

TOO PLUSH: Katabatic worked his way up from lowly handicaps in his formative days with Andy Turnell, who has adopted a similar softly-softly approach with Too Plush. Judging by his recent easy Bangor win, this six-year-old will continue to thrive. (A Turnell).

UNGUIDED MISSILE: Probably caught Brief Gale on an off-day when beating Josh Gifford's mare by 11 lengths at Ayr in April, but as he had Kilcolgan a distance back in third a bright future in handicaps looks assured for this progressive young chaser. (G Richards).

Dettori booked for Reimei

BOOKMAKERS know to their cost that Reg Akehurst can never be ignored in the big handicaps, and they were quick to react when the Epsom trainer booked Frankie Dettori for Reimei at Doncaster tomorrow, *writes Ron Cox*.

Hill's cut the six-year-old from 20-1 to 12-1 for the Tote Credit November Handicap. With the weights set to rise fully 21lb, Reimei moves up to 8st 3lb — Dettori's minimum weight.

The six-year-old made a belated return to action when dead-heating for third place behind Indigo Time at Ascot last month.

Snow Princess continues to be a well backed favourite. She advanced to 4-1 from 9-2 with Hill's and is the same price (from 5's) with Ladbrokes.

At Doncaster today, One Dream (12.50) could oblige at rewarding odds for his trainer, Brian Smart, whose small stable has enjoyed a fine season with its two-year-olds.

Sil Sila won first time out for Smart, at 50-1, before following up in stronger company at 25-1. Polly Golightly (33-1) was also a debut winner for the Lambourn yard and, like One Dream, is by the stallion Weldnaas. Expect today's newcomer to know his job.

Doncaster runners and riders with form

12.50 ONE DREAM (nap)
1.20 Kerry Ring
1.50 Marawis
2.20 Chief Bee
2.50 Regal Portrait
3.20 Dande Flyer
3.50 Brighstone
4.20 Quilling

Hexham (N.H.)

1.30 Two For One
2.00 George Ashford
2.30 Willie Sparkle
3.00 Yacht Club
3.20 Supertop
4.00 Green's Seago

Going: Good to firm (firm in places). ★ Denotes blinkers.

1.30 DOBSON BROWN MAIDEN CHASE 3m 1f £2,672

1	00555-4 AYLESBURY LAD (27) D Lamb 6-11-5	Mr A Manners (7)
2	03-2323 MISTI HUNTER (6) Miss M Milligan 6-11-5	R Garritt
3	500023- MORE JOY (168) Mrs L Marshall 7-11-5	G Lee (3)
4	2 TWO FOR ONE (20) Lucinda V Russell 6-11-5	P Niven

4 runners

1994: Ninda 6 10 9 A Dobbin 10-1 (G Richards) 12 ran

Betting: Evens Two For One, 2-1 Misti Hunter, 4-1 Aylesbury Lad, 16-1 More Joy

2.00 FEDERATION BREWERY NOVICE HURDLE 2m 4f 110yds £2,422

1	243414 GEORGE ASHFORD (23) K Morgan 5-11-7	A S Smith
2	/063/0P- ANOTHER MEADOW (289) J Dixon 7-11-0	A Dobbin
3	06650-0 BLUE CHARM (20) Mrs S Bradburne 5-11-0	T Reed
4	6PP30B- HEDDON HAUGH (174) P Cheesbrough 7-11-0	R Supple
5	00-5 PERSUASIVE TALENT (27) D Lamb 4-11-0	Mr A Manners (7)
6	0630- ANASTASIA WINDSOR (160) D Moffatt 4-10-9	D J Moffatt

6 runners

1994: Tartan Tradewinds 7 11 7 A Dobbin 7-2 (G Richards) 11 ran

Betting: 5-4 Heathview, 7-4 Willie Sparkle, 5-1 Scarf, 6-1 Laurie-O, 33-1 Achiltibuie, 50-1 Live And Let Live

3.00 FEDERATION BREWERY LAGER SELLING H'CAP HURDLE 2m 4f 110yds £1,725

1	4/414P3- IRISH FLASHER (188) (D) J Birkett 8-11-10	A Jones ★
2	345P0-3 MHEMEANLES (8) (BF) J Wilson 5-11-4	B Fenton (5)
3	006000- TACTIX (193) Miss M Milligan 5-11-1	R Garritt
4	0-03125 YACHT CLUB (12) (BF) J Eyre 13-10-12	O Pears
5	8055-22 PALACE RIVER (8) (BF) D Moffatt 7-10-11	D J Moffatt
6	432523 BALZINO (13) N Tinkler 6-10-4	E Husband (5) ★

6 runners

1994: No corresponding race.

Betting: 7-4 Palace River, 5-2 Mhemeanles, 3-1 Yacht Club, 5-1 Balzino, 12-1 Irish Flasher, 33-1 Tactix.

3.30 JOHN EUSTACE SMITH TROPHY NOVICE H'CAP CHASE 2m 110yds £2,490

1	0244-1 SUPERTOP (7) (7lb ex) (D) L Lungo 7-12-1	T Reed
2	3341/U-2 ALLIMAC NOMIS (118) M Hammond 6-11-10	Mr C Bonner (3)
3	5/7P1-32 SONNY-P (27) P Beaumont 7-10-8	R Supple
4	58P0P-9 STRONG MEASURE (27) P Cheesbrough 7-10-5	A Dobbin
5	503504- HICKSONS CHOICE (182) J Wade 7-10-2	K Jones
6	045-PPP CROFTON LAKE (27) J Dixon 7-10-1	B Storey
7	60005-5 QUARTZ HILL (27) D Lamb 6-10-0	Mr A Manners (7)

7 runners

1994: Flash Of Realm 8 11 10 A Dobbin 11-10 (P Monteith) 10 ran

Betting: 7-4 Allimac Nomis, 9-4 Supertop, 11-4 Sonny-P, 8-1 Strong Measure, 12-1 Hicksons Choice, 50-1 Crofton Lake, Quartz Hill

4.00 FEDERATION BREWERY SPECIAL ALE HANDICAP HURDLE 2m £2,031

1	P011-F4 TASHREEF (140) (CD) J Birkett 5-11-10	A Jones ★
2	00100-0 JOYRIDER (7) (D) Miss M Milligan 4-11-8	R Garritt
3	625100- FLY TO THE END (193) (D) J Quinn 5-11-1	D Byrne
4	3-320 CADEAUX PREMIERE (13) Denys Smith 4-10-6	P Niven
5	432155 GREEN'S SEAGO (8) (CD) J A Harris 7-10-5	A Dobbin
6	6355P0 SPORTING SPIRIT (23) G Kelly 5-10-0	D J Kavanagh
7	6/0-3820 SWANK GILBERT (203) T Cuthbert 9-10-0	Carol Cuthbert

7 runners

1994: Royal Citizen 6 11 2 D Byrne 6-1 (J F Bottomley) 16 ran

Betting: 2-1 Tashreef, 9-4 Cadeaux Premiere, 5-2 Green's Seago, 8-1 Joyrider, 10-1 Fly To The End, 25-1 Swank Gilbert, 66-1 Sporting Spirit.

Uttoxeter (N.H.)

1.10 Hag's Way
1.40 Edira
2.10 Brasil
2.40 Dark Nightingale (nb)
3.10 Harwell Lad
3.40 Large Action
4.10 Lien De Famille

Going: Good. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since latest NH outing.

● Blinkered today for the first time: UTTOXETER: 1.40 Uncle Keeny; 2.10 Full Quiver; 2.40 Zahid. DONCASTER: 4.20 Euphyllia, Sylvandra. HEXHAM: 2.30 Live And Let Live.

Locals shoot down Trigger

LEE FREEDMAN, the leading Australian trainer, has expressed reservations about Double Trigger's chance in next Tuesday's Melbourne Cup.

Freedman, who has won the big race twice, said: "There are a lot of ifs and buts about him and, taking into account the racing styles of both Double Trigger and Vintage Crop, I would say that the tempo of the race would suit the Irish runner better."

Mark Johnston, trainer of Double Trigger, refused to elaborate on tactics. "I don't know if he would have the early speed to be in the first four," he said.

Australian bookmakers have written Double Trigger off as a no-hoper, but yesterday Ladbrokes clipped his odds to 7-2 favourite from 4-1.

Results

EDINBURGH

LINGFIELD

MARKET RASEN

RACELINE
FULL RESULTS SERVICE
0891-168-168
D'CASTER 101 201 301
UTTOXETER 102 202 302
HEXHAM 103 203 303

Cricket

Tour match: Border v England XI

Smith duck lifts Crawley stock

Edward Harris in East London

TOURING appears to have a hypnotic effect on Robin Smith's batting, which takes on a different character on foreign soil.

Once again this winter the belligerent hitter that English crowds see so often and identify with bare-knuckle fights with West Indian quick bowlers is looking a tentative shadow boxer abroad.

Smith has even employed the help of the TV hypnotist Paul McKenna to help him focus his energies but he was thwarted again yesterday by a slow low pitch and a Leicestershire Second XI bowler.

Brenden Fourie, a 25-year-old pace bowler whose action has aroused some interest in this country, spent 1994 at Grace Road, making one first-class appearance as an unregistered overseas player against Oxford University.

Yesterday playing for Border against the touring England side he nipped one into Smith's pads to have him out for a third-ball duck. Smith looked at his front leg and then back at the stumps but he was only half-forward and had to go for his second successive nought.

Smith has scored four runs in three first-class innings on tour and the Test place earmarked for him is far from certain.

He rarely travels well. Currently on his sixth major tour, he has scored only two Test centuries outside England and last winter England did not even take him to face Shane Warne in Australia.

To add to Smith's problems, he spent most of yesterday at the virtually deserted Buffalo Park watching two of England's younger generation, John Crawley and Mark Ramprakash, play as though they really mean business this winter.

The start was delayed two hours by storms which made it a wild night on the South African coast and, when Crawley walked out to face the first ball, he must have remembered the last time he opened for England, in Adelaide 12 months ago. Crawley had made a good start to that tour — as he has here — but he suffered a pair then and his winter went into decline.

There was no repeat yesterday as he got his shaven head down and batted through the day's 69 overs ending 87 not out and within sight of his first century for England at senior level. After a resolute 85 in the opening first-class match in Soweto, he is making an impressive case for a place in the first Test a fortnight hence.

Ramprakash is even more impressive. Following two good efforts in early one-day games, he played like a man intent on enjoying his tour. His fluent 70 from 97 deliveries came in a 120-run partnership with Crawley that laid the foundations of England's 218 for four. He left in kind, driving with a flourish hard to cover.

Smith, promoted to No. 4 because of Thorpe's return home, became Fourie's second victim in successive overs.

Fourie was the pick of the eight bowlers used by Peter Kirsten but most interest centred on Makhaya Ntini, a 17-year-old township boy who was born in a hut and had not played cricket until three years ago.

Last summer Ntini shone on South Africa's Under-19 tour of England and yesterday, on his first-class debut, he had Stewart caught clipping to midwicket.

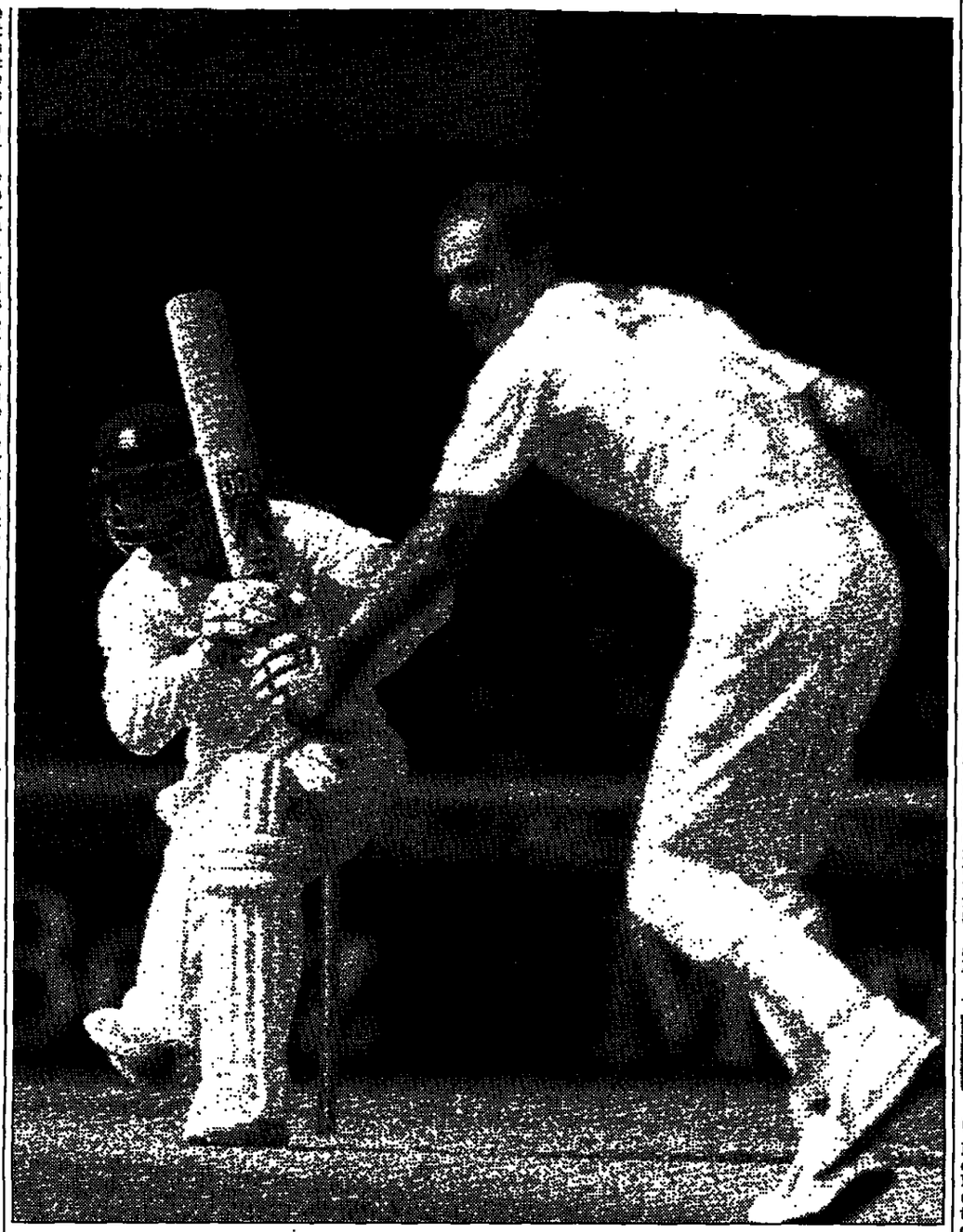
Ntini, with a windmill action that produces sharp pace, looked comfortable at this level and is another example of why the authorities here believe that in 10 years' time they will be producing cricketers from all sections of the community that will make them world beaters.

Without Thorpe England were a batsman short and, when Hick was out cheaply, the innings could have subsided but for Crawley's mature batting. Noisily supported by Russell, he set himself up for a century this morning that will add to the selectors' problem over Smith.

ENGLAND XI
First Innings

J P Crawley not out	87
*A J Stewart c Kirsten b Ntini	11
M R Ramprakash c Cullinan b Fourie	70
R A Smith lbw b Fourie	0
G A Hick c Palframan b Cronje	18
†R C Russell not out	16
Extras (lb4, w2, nb10)	16
Total (for 4, 69 overs)	218

Fall of wickets: 23, 143, 145, 184.
To bat: D G Cork, D Gough, M C Ilott, R K Illingworth, P J Martin.
Bowling: Fourie 15–6–30–2; Ntini 15–2–58–1; Botha 9–0–29–0; Emslie 5–0–31–0; Howell 6–0–33–0; Cronje 8–1–19–1; Pope 3–0–15–0; Strydom 1–1–0–0.
BORDER: P J Botha, F J C Cronje, *P N Kirsten, D J Cullinan, P C Strydom, S C Pope, †S J Palframan, I L Howell, B C Fourie, P A N Emslie, M Ntini.



Driving ambition . . . Crawley, on his way to 87 not out, improved his chance of a Test place at Smith's expense GRAHAM CHADWICK

Compassionate leave for Thorpe as wife loses baby

GRAHAM THORPE, who flew back to England yesterday to be with his wife, who is recovering from the termination of an ectopic pregnancy, is expected to rejoin the tour next week in time for the final game before the first Test, *writes Edward Harris.*

The Surrey left-hander's departure leaves him short of match practice and, providing there are no setbacks after the successful operation on his wife Nicky, whom he married on September 23, he will play in the four-day game in Kimberley against a South Africa A side.

Thorpe has played only one innings on tour, scoring 22 in a limited-overs match in Springs last week, and was due to play in the four-day match against Border, which started yesterday. His place was taken by the pace bowler Mark Ilott.

The assistant manager John Barclay said: "We do not see Graham missing this match as a great problem. Obviously he needs to be at home and our thoughts and best wishes are with them both."

White fractures his thumb on another black day on tour

CRAIG WHITE, who made an early exit from the Ashes tour last winter, has broken his thumb playing for England A in Pakistan.

White fractured the right thumb during the six-wicket win over the Pakistan Cricket Board XI in Karachi on Wednesday.

The Yorkshire all-rounder, who injured the thumb while fielding, is expected to be out of action for 10 days.

Curtly Ambrose has agreed a one-year contract to become Northamptonshire's overseas player next summer. The 32-year-old fast bowler will return for a sixth season after being replaced by Anil Kumble last summer while he toured England with West Indies.

The former England batsman Kim Barnett, who gave up the Derbyshire captaincy at the end of last season, is to stay with the county. There had been speculation that he would play out his career with another county.

No Malik v May meeting on field day for Pakistanis

THE Adelaide crowd was denied any eyeball-to-eyeball fireworks between Tim May and the man he accused of offering bribes, Salim Malik, when the Pakistanis spent yesterday's first day of their match against South Australia in the field.

The state side reached 282 for four, including 109 not out by Darren Lehmann, who added 94 in an unbroken fifth-wicket stand with Tim Nielsen, who made 42.

Malik, who was greeted by a media scrum upon his late arrival in Australia after a domestic inquiry cleared him of wrongdoing, was returning to first-class cricket eight months after being sacked as Pakistan captain.

The former Essex player is expected to make his Test comeback next week in Brisbane, where he will face his two other accusers, Shane Warne and Mark Waugh.

● The former Warwickshire batsman Roger Twose hit his first century for his adopted country as New Zealand scored 367 for three on the first day of their three-day match against Indian Colts.

Tennis

Generation games

David Irvine at Telford

IT WAS a record-setting occasion here at the 14th British national championships yesterday. Jo Durie, in "positively" her last tournament, became the first player to notch 50 singles victories at the event, while Amanda Janes, only just embarking on her career at 17, joined her in the semi-finals — the first qualifier to do so.

For the two to meet in the final, Durie must today beat Samantha Smith, which is what she did in the 1991 semi-finals, and Janes must overcome the top-seeded Clare Wood, which is a somewhat taller order than beating — as she already has — two of the lesser seeds.

None the less, Durie v Janes, a former No. 1 versus the daughter of another (Christine Truman), would be an attractive if unlikely conclusion to a competition that has been a deal more interesting than most expected when play began on Tuesday.

Durie not only welcomed Janes's sudden emergence but suggested that the tall, slimly built youngster's approach was the way the game would increasingly be played in the future. Or, as some older hands have noted, how it was in the past before Chris Evert laid her double-handed backhand on it.

"Most young players these days just drill the ball back and forth from the baseline," said Durie, "so anyone who can do something a bit different has to be on the right track."

Some of Janes's strokes puzzled her, she admitted. "But they really are very effective and she's got a huge serve as well as a lovely sliced backhand." It certainly added up to too potent a mixture for the No. 3 seed Karen Cross, who lost 6–3, 7–5.

Janes likes to play baseliners. "I think I break up their rhythm by coming in all the time. It must be quite a shock to them not being given a chance to rally."

Jasmine Choudhury, another young player Durie rates, found Wood's heavy groundstrokes too much to handle and, despite the 17-year-old qualifier's determined rallying, lost out 6–1, 6–3. Wood — twice a winner of the title — is unlikely to be as unsettled by Janes as Cross had been.

Durie had been determined to enjoy herself here and not fall victim to nerves. "And that is how it's been," she said after defeating Amanda Wainwright 6–2, 6–3. Smith was less convincing in beating the No. 2 seed Lizzie Jelfs 6–2, 7–5 and, as at Brighton, appeared to suffer lapses of concentration.

In the men's singles Tim Henman lost a set to his hard-serving doubles partner Andrew Richardson but then dominated the final set to win 6–3, 4–6, 6–3. Today, in the quarter-finals, the No. 3 seed will face 18-year-old Jamie Delgado, a winner of the Orange Bowl four years ago.

Jeremy Bates, the champion for the past three years, had to save two set points before clinching a 6–3, 7–6 victory over Bristol's Nick Gould in a well-played tiebreak.

Chang remains en route for Paris double

MICHAEL CHANG improved his chances of becoming the first player to win both the French and Paris Opens yesterday with a hard-fought victory over Andrei Medvedev that took him through to the quarter-finals of the Paris Open.

The No. 4 seed needed 142 minutes for his 2–6, 6–3, 7–5 win over the 13th-seeded Ukrainian. Chang now meets the former world No. 1 Jim Courier, the sixth seed, whose powerful ground strokes helped him cruise to a 6–3, 6–4 win over the No. 11 seed Magnus Larsson

● Venus Williams, the 15-year-old American prodigy, claimed her first victory over a top 20 player when she beat the fifth-seed and fellow American Amy Frazier 4–6, 6–3, 6–3 in the second round of the Bank of the West Classic in Oakland, California.

Golf

Woosnam hot on the trail of five birdies

IAN WOOSNAM sweated his way to a five-under-par 67 in the first round of the £266,000 Alfred Dunhill Masters in Indonesia yesterday. The 37-year-old Welshman overcame the 100F heat to claim five birdies and no bogeys on the Arnold Palmer-designed course at Jakarta's Emeralda Golf and Country Club.

He is one stroke off the lead held jointly by the Australians Craig Parry and Paul Gow, and Sweden's Mathias Gronberg.

Woosnam, who decided to enter the event only a few weeks ago, said: "In these conditions it's very hard to keep your concentration and score together. This has been one of the hottest days I've ever played golf on."

Mark Mouland, who teams up with Woosnam for Wales in next week's Heineken World Cup in China, shot a two-under-par 70, but England's Ben Jackson struggled to a 77.

● Britain's Richard Boxall shot a first-round 72 to be six shots off the pace set by Seiki Okuda in the £1.13 million Daiwa International in Sudama, Japan.

● Sandy Lambert, the England woman international from Coombe Hill, has turned professional and will play in the 72-hole American Express Tour qualifying school at La Manga in Spain starting on November 28.

Rugby Union

Davies to return on Sunday but not in the No. 10 shirt

David Plummer

JONATHAN DAVIES will make his debut for Cardiff against Aberavon on Sunday, only five days after his return to rugby union. But he is expected to play at full-back rather than in the fly-half position in which he so excelled for Wales in the Eighties.

The 33-year-old was unveiled by Cardiff to a packed press conference yesterday. It was revealed that a trio of businessmen had raised the £60,000 transfer fee demanded by Warrington for the release of Davies from his contract.

The game at the Arms Park has been put back to Sunday so it may be televised live to raise £10,000, some of which will go to Cardiff.

Cardiff anticipate a crowd of 14,200 and the club's switchboard was jammed yesterday by callers seeking tickets, though some members have protested that Cardiff, who are more than £1 million in debt, have wasted money frivolously.

"The deal has not cost us anything but we have provided Welsh rugby with a massive shot in the arm," said the Cardiff chief executive Gareth Davies. "What he will do is generate interest in and income for the club. We attracted only 2,800 spectators the last time we played Aberavon eight months ago but on Sunday we will get five times that amount."

Davies, who has signed a two-year contract, could not resist a sideswipe at the Welsh Rugby Union: "It does seem ironic that when I left my place in the Welsh team was under threat but that when I return at the age of 33, I seem to be a conquering hero," he said.

Martin Bayfield, Northampton's England lock, revealed yesterday that he has turned down a £50,000 offer to join Harlequins.

"I was tempted and flattered I was approached," said Bayfield, who on Wednesday started a five-year sabbatical from Bedfordshire Police Force when he became a full-time professional. "But I have no desire to leave."

Damian Hopley, England's new right wing, stays in the centre for Wasps against West Hartlepool tomorrow.

Western Samoa arrived yesterday for their 12-match tour of Scotland and England. Gary Armstrong, missing from the international game for over a year because of a serious knee injury, has been recalled to captain Scotland A against the tourists at Hawick on November 12. The scrum-half, who has signed registration forms for Newcastle, leads a side containing six newcomers at this level.

● Alun Pask, the former Wales captain and Lions No. 8, has died after a fire at his home in Blackwood, Gwent. The 58-year-old, who won 26 caps during the Sixties, was overcome by smoke after rushing back to his blazing bungalow with a garden hose to douse the blaze.

Obituary, page 10

Extra time Edited by Jeremy Alexander

Money storm after the lull for Lindsay

NO ONE wanted to rock the boat during the Centenary World Cup — at least no one here, where Maurice Lindsay was driving his punt like a speedboat. Even Australia's coach Bobby Fulton forbore to mention the battle for control of rugby league back home until his sesqui-XIII had won. But in Australia they had no such sensibilities.

Justice Burchett lifted a suppression order on contract figures involved in the Australian Rugby League v Super League war and the noughts tumbled out in the Federal Court to considerable local outrage last week. The ARL spent £5,475,000 in signing nine British or British-based players, including £1¼ million on three veterans, Hanley, Hampson and Jonathan Davies. These outstrip the vast majority of payments to Australians who stayed loyal to the ARL.

The greatest indignation concerns Malcolm Reilly, the Newcastle coach, who got a £142,000 signing-on fee and £950,000 over four years, a quarter of the total his 19 players receive. The South Sydney football manager Alan Jones condemned the league and the man: "Reilly was paid more than 160 footballers from the Gold Coast, Parramatta, Balmain and South Sydney put together.

"We [Souths] don't want a cent. We didn't give our loyalty to the ARL conditional on money coming. I led more of the loyalty case than Reilly, who has coached Britain and beaten no one in a series and coached Newcastle and beaten no one. He's a blow-in. He's been here a handful of months."

Most of the nine player deals, struck after the spring revolution, included a signing-on fee as large as the annual payment, with contracts over three years. Robinson's was best: £250,000 to sign, £300,000 a year. Connolly and Innes are on £200,000, with the same to sign. With the British game aligning itself with the Super League, Hanley, then GB coach, was a particular target. He fell for £250,000 to sign, then £200,000 a year for three years. He will be 37 in 1998.

Davies alone received only a signing-on fee. The ARL could not say whether his £100,000 was reclaimable under changed circumstances. The other three beneficiaries are Jackson (£250,000 to sign, £200,000 a year), Ellis and Hall.

Three Sydney Bulldogs in the World Cup winning team — Dymock, Pay and Smith — got £119,000 to sign, then salaries between £126,000 and £152,000, respectively. The disclosure of figures may have been a timely device. The Australians were roused, the English clearly comfortable. Lindsay's boat may be in port but the seas out there are still rough.

Sixth column

ON JUNE 7 next year the British Horseracing Board, set up in 1993, will elect a chairman to succeed Lord Hartington. The 11 candidates are the board's directors, who also make the choice. One is Matthew McCloy, chairman of the BHB's industry committee and racing's best-known solicitor. The Aga Khan is a client.

This week he was consulting his own lawyers. Flying to the Breeders' Cup meeting, he was arrested at Kennedy Airport and spent 51 hours in police custody, some of it in "a filthy 6ft 6in cell with an open loo which did not work". He shared it with cockroaches and another man.

Part of the trouble was that he was mistaken for a black Jamaican criminal, of the same name and birthdate. If it had not been for his wife Pru he might have missed the first race. The other part was alcohol and early this week he pleaded guilty to a charge of disorderly conduct, regarded as a violation rather than a crime. Other charges of assault and resisting arrest were dropped.

A Port Authority spokesman said: "American Airlines personnel reported to us that McCloy was intoxicated on board and created a disturbance when he was refused more alcohol. The captain radioed ahead that it had been necessary to handcuff the passenger and to ask for airline security officials and police to be available. During a scuffle on the jetway police sergeant Patrick O'Reilly was knocked over and broke a rib."

McCloy is 48. The BHB has 10 other candidates.

ONE Mercedes was too much, two absurd. Haile Gebreselassie, who keeps winning them with world 10,000 metres titles, does not drive. At his pace and distance he does not need to. The first car has stood on the forecourt of a dealership in Addis Ababa for two years. Occasionally Gebreselassie has sat behind the wheel and listened to the in-car stereo. Now he has a second a solution to the first may be in sight. The Ethiopian transport authority training centre has offered him free driving lessons.

Gebreselassie . . . L-driver

MARK RING will have to stick to the rugby field for a bit. Back in September he was sent off playing soccer. On Monday the South Wales FA fined him £20 and banned him for 21 days. This is the minimum sentence for violent conduct. It is hard to believe he just forgot where he was. He was playing for Alloy Wheels Internationals in the Lazarou Sunday League.

Soon he may be going elsewhere anyway. Laden with coaching badges, he has signed registration forms with West Hartlepool, where, for £35,000, he will be asked to do what Paul Turner does for Sale.

NICK FALDO's capacity for change of heart is challenging Elizabeth Taylor's. Even so the British press is an unlikely favourite. "I owe an apology to the British golf writers," he said last week from Tulsa, Oklahoma. "They are a band of angels compared with this lot."

The Association of Golf Writers, pining in Spain, was quick to respond. "Apology accepted," the fax went. "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts [exaggeration, perhaps, but in memory of Faldo's attempt at a joke in his victory speech at the Open, when he reversed the parts of the body]. Missing you at Valderrama. Good luck for the second round. The Band of Angels." There followed 23 signatures.

MOSSLEY, who have entertained Mansfield, Crewe and Stockport at Seel Park in the FA Cup and went to Wembley for the FA Trophy final in 1980, were happy to be drawn away this week in the second round of the FA Vase. It gave them a stay of extension. Relegated last season, they were inspected by their new league, the North West Counties, which found their pitch was three yards short of the minimum 110 yards. It has been like that for 86 years and the FA insisted on the full distance for its competitions. The three yards are still being added.

A HONG Kong court ruled yesterday that the prison service was out of order in removing the racing sections from the newspapers of inmates. It violates their human rights. The High Court judge Raymond Sears was responding to a petition from Chim Shing-chung, serving an eight-year sentence for drug trafficking, who claimed unlawful censorship of his racing form.

Gambling is hard enough for those at liberty in Hong Kong: apart from racing, there is only a twice-weekly lottery. For gaolbirds it is illegal and a prison service official told the court it had been drastically curtailed since they removed the racing pages. Notwithstanding, inside information is back.

THE Press Association, reporting the progress of the former Christine Truman's daughter yesterday to the semi-finals of the British national championships, started: "Amanda Janes showed she is a chip off the old block . . ."

Janes, guaranteed £2,200, her biggest prize yet, said: "I could even buy a car." Or she could call Gebreselassie.

Hughes sulks over Welsh selection, page 13

Tyson's thumb gives Lewis a hand, page 14

More heartache for Robin Smith, page 15

Durie rolls back the years, page 15

SportsGuardian

Scottish club would like a call from its chairman, left, the Vancouver-based businessman Ron Dixon who has not been heard from for seven months

Report by Lawrence Donegan

Mystery of the missing Dundee supremo

Missing link . . . Jim Duffy, the Dundee manager, ponders the whereabouts of his boss, who bought the club in in 1991 for a reported £600,000 PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MacLEOD

THE sun was shining on the home of Dundee FC yesterday afternoon but it still was not strong enough to shed light on an extraordinary mystery at this famous old Scottish club: its chairman is missing.

Ron Dixon, a Canadian entrepreneur who bought the Dens Park club in 1991 for a reported £600,000, has not contacted club officials for seven months. He does not know his team has made an impressive start to the season or read the rave reviews for his young players. Most startlingly, he does not know Dundee have made it to the Coca-Cola Cup final, where they meet Aberdeen.

Jim Duffy, the Dundee manager, would have told him the good news in his weekly telephone chat after last week's 3-2 First Division victory at Airdrie. But the calls abruptly stopped in January.

"I would have said: 'Ron, we're in the Coca-Cola Cup final'. He would have said: 'Is that good?'," Duffy said yesterday. "I would have said yes and he would have said 'great Jim'. He's a very shrewd businessman but he's a Canadian, he knows less than nothing about football."

Asked about Dixon's whereabouts, the Dundee boss shrugged and said what everyone at Dens Park says: "I honestly don't know."

It not exactly clear how the Vancouver-based businessman came to own a football club 5,000 miles across the Atlantic. It certainly was not a sentimental gesture towards his boyhood roots. Neil Squire, Dundee's managing director, said Dixon had never been in Dundee until 1991, although there are rumours he had a granny from Glasgow.

"To be honest, you hear a different story every week," Squire said wearily. The most frequently told is that Dixon came to Dundee to set up an ice hockey club and was driving past Dens Park when he saw a white Rolls Royce parked outside.

"The story goes he asked what the stadium was and was told it was the home of Dundee FC. When he heard the Rolls Royce belonged to the club's chairman he said: 'Ask him if he'll sell.' I think he got the impression the club was a sleeping giant," Squire said.

Dundee still is a sleeping giant. When the ice hockey dream fell through, Dixon began pouring money into his acquisition. He bought Polish internationals, the former Arsenal player Graham Rix and Simon Stainrod, but to little avail. Promotion to the Premier Division in 1993 was followed by relegation in 1994.

He did not lose faith. When told the club had a £569,000 overdraft he immediately wrote a cheque for the whole amount. He is estimated to have spent £2 million on his Caledonian adventure.

Squire was the last club official to see him in the flesh. He drove him to Edinburgh airport in November 1994. "He was highly delighted with everything: the club had no debts and the team was in the top two in the league.

"I've spoken to him on the phone twice since then; in February, to bring him up to date with the club's position; and for 10 seconds in April, when he said he might be coming over in the summer."

Attempts to contact the chairman on any of the six telephone numbers in Canada he gave Squire have proved fruitless. Every line has been disconnected.

"Who knows where he is?" Squire said. "I think he has probably got far bigger interests elsewhere in the world to spend all his time on Dundee FC. Maybe he has got a wee bit disillusioned, I don't know, but no one invests £2 million in an asset and then forgets about it. He knows the business is in good hands — believe me we would haggle over the price of a light bulb."

The managing director is worried that the mystery is detracting from the club's Coca-Cola Cup achievement. "I'm sure he knows we're in the final. There is bound to be a radio station near him which broadcasts the football results every Saturday."

There have been reported sightings in Vancouver and Tasmania. A friend of someone's brother saw him in Russia. More recently, there have been unsubstantiated tales of a darker hue. In 1992, Dixon denied allegations of business connections with organised crime. "I have never done anything illegal. I have probably cut a few corners here and there — I probably left some blood on the table when I was younger," he told one reporter.

Anthony Caplan, Dixon's solicitor in Scotland, said yesterday a libel action against a journalist who alleged his client was "a gangster" during a radio phone-in is one of several pending issues.

"But no, I haven't been in touch with him either," he said yesterday. "He may be somewhere in the middle of Russia — I believe he has got banking interests there. But I don't think he has given up interest in Dundee."

Caplan is keen that his client resurfaces. Duffy, on the other hand, is more ambivalent. With the cup final just three weeks away, he can prepare the club without any interference from the chairman. It's a position many managers would envy but there are there drawbacks.

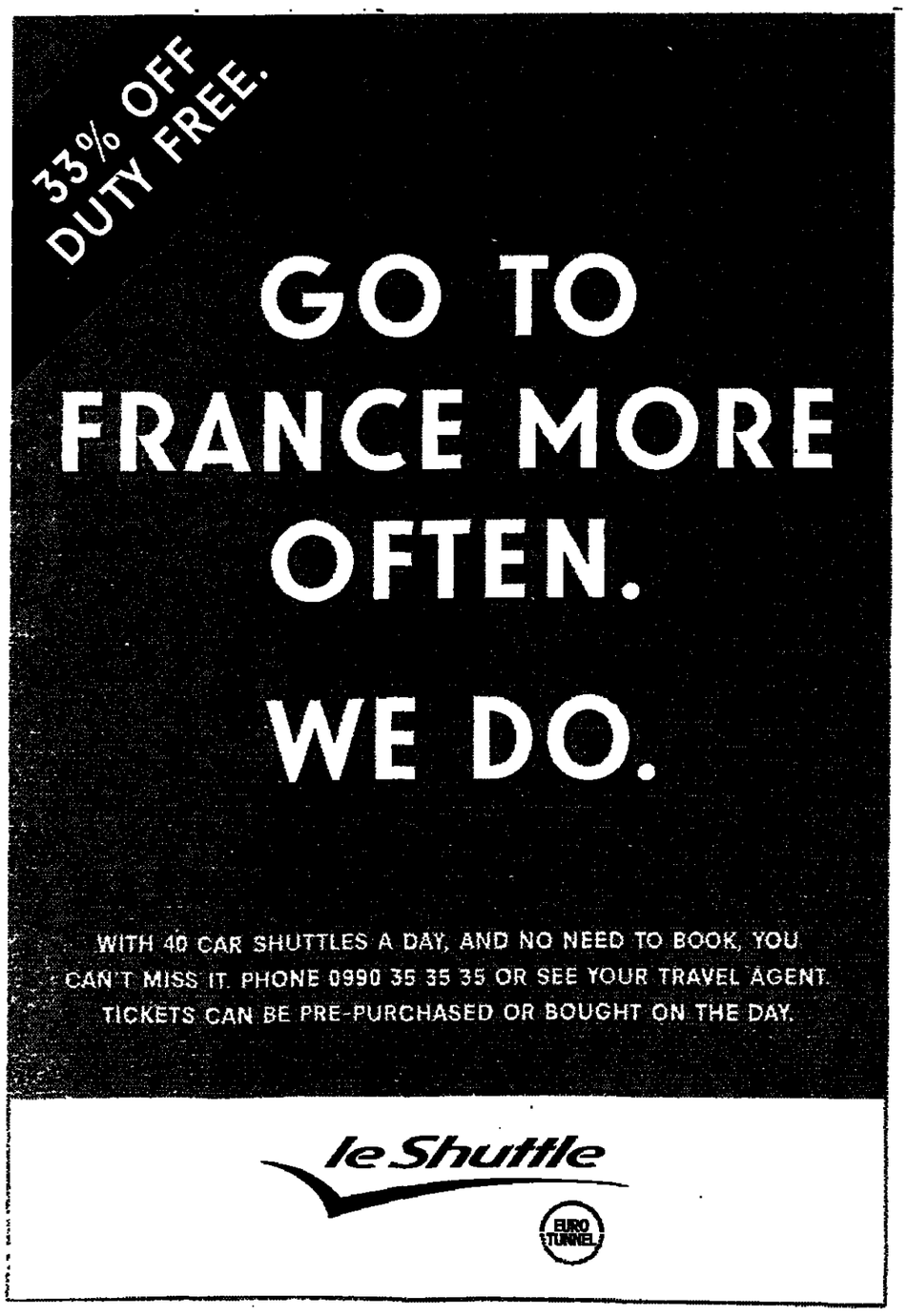
The club has no overdraft facilities and has to operate on what it makes at the turnstiles. Buying players is almost impossible.

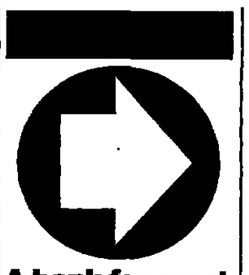
"The good thing about not having a chairman around is that everyone, from the woman who does the hoovering to the manager, is that bit more relaxed.

"Like any business, the boss wants to know everything about what's going on — it's very time-consuming when you're trying to prepare for games, especially for a cup final," Duffy said.

"What would I say to him if he turned up the day before the final? I would say: 'Hi Ron, how's it going?'"

'He may be somewhere in the middle of Russia. But I don't think he's given up on Dundee'



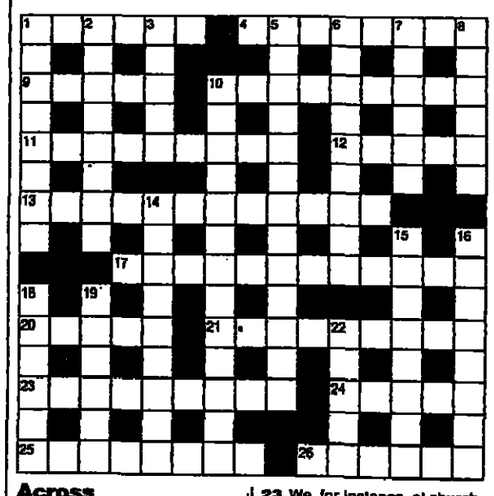


A bank for most of us now is a hole in the wall, and it is only a matter of time before the buildings are converted into restaurants and the staff moved to provincial warehouses to conduct their business by telephone. The old bank manager is redundant, a vanished figure whose passing was scarcely noticed.

Review page 4

Guardian Crossword No 20,489

Set by Custos

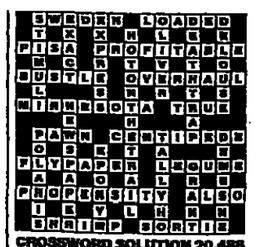


Across

1 Holiday flats spreading round the East (6)
4 Luggage conveyor to start in California (8)
9 Language you may find in log, strangely (5)
10 Singer Tommy gets to grab swagman's food container (9)
11 Erred badly below — lost blood about it (9)
12 Make-up that instils a spot of glamour in debauchee (5)
13 Study banality, showing remorse (12)
17 One charged with adultery scorned no pet, oddly (2-10)
20 Wandering voyage, we hear, for ships' companies (5)
21 Hearing expert, officer's beginning to see the point (9)
23 We, for instance, at church pass judgment (9)
24 Carried in the bulkhead a vital part of ship's equipment (5)
25 Exposed King and Queen among leading players (8)
26 Bride's assorted rubbish (6)

Down

1 After start of fight, everybody put money on retreat (4,4)
2 Confident, initially spirited, like a snake (8)
3 Shun an empty space (5)
5 I'd slipped in the midst of stress, face down, liable to suffer mishaps (8-5)
6 Love sign, a form of Siren, provides a solution (4-5)
7 Overpower warship directly (6)
8 Youth, brought round to encourage rising, loitered (6)
10 Get out of danger and go round the bend? (4,3,6)
14 Rhizome, grub given cattle? (8)
15 British priest, always an upholder of religion (8)
16 Laws guaranteeing 'umble abode in America? (8)
18 Slips the ship round the headland (6)
19 Batter one round a ring in a game (6)
22 O Lord, that is a relic of the pasti (5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,488

Solution tomorrow

© Published by Guardian Newspapers Limited at 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and at 164 Deansgate, Manchester M60 2RR. Printed at the Guardian Press Centre, 2 Millharbour, London E14 9NG; Trafford Park Printers, Longbridge Road, Manchester M17 1SL; Ter-Druckerei GmbH, Admiral-Rosendahl-Strasse 1, 6078 Neu-Isenburg/Zeppelinheim, Germany; Nord Eclair, 15/21 rue du Caire, BP69 - 59052 Roubaix, Cedex 1, France, for and on behalf of the Guardian and Manchester Evening News PLC. 46,389. Friday November 3, 1995. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office ISSN 0261-3077
Londoner Telephone 0171-278 2332. Telex 8811746 (Guard G). Fax 0171-837 2114; 0171-833 3342. Telephone sales 0171-611 9000
Manchester: Tel 0161-832 7200. Fax 0161-832 5351/834 9717. Tel sales 0161-834 8686